NMI's COVID-19 Community Level progressing toward 'Medium' PAGE 3
Red Cross to honor 'volunteer heroes' PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 55

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY MARCH 18, 2022 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Quitugua recuses self from participating in impeachment hearing process

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing personal conflict of interest, Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan) has recused himself from participating in the impeachment hearing process in the case against Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Quitugua informed Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Senate Special Committee on Impeachment Hearing chair Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) last March 8 that he will also recuse from voting on the articles of impeachment when it comes before the full Senate for a vote.

Quitugua disclosed that Torres' maternal grandfather is his mother's sibling.

"And in our close-knit community and Chamorro culture, familial relationship is intrinsically recognized and respected," the senator said.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still waiting for Hofschneider's reply whether he rejected or accepted Quitugua's letter of recusal.

Last March 10, Hofschnei-

See QUITUGUA on Page 4

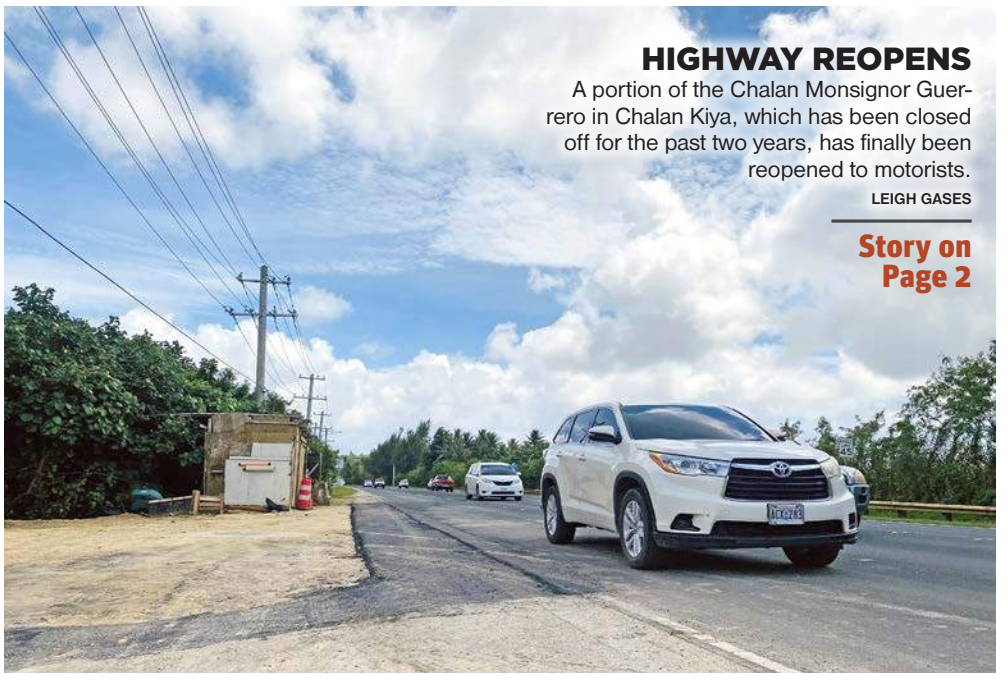
IPI receivership extended anew

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has extended the stay on U.S.A. Fanter Corp.'s limited receivership against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC that has now been assumed by the seven workers who were suing IPI for labor violations and human trafficking allegations.

In an order issued by District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Wednesday, she extended the stay placed on the receivership that was originally granted to U.S.A Fanter af-

See IPI on Page 4



HIGHWAY REOPENS
A portion of the Chalan Monsignor Guerrero in Chalan Kiya, which has been closed off for the past two years, has finally been reopened to motorists.
LEIGH GASES

Story on Page 2

Magofna seeks re-election as an independent

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Corina L. Magofna (D-Saipan), who ran as a Democrat and won a Precinct 3 seat in the House of Representatives during a special election last Oct. 16, is seeking re-election on Nov. 8 but this time as an independent candidate.

Magofna assured, though, in a statement yesterday that,

See MAGOFNA on Page 4

Air Busan now flies 2X a week to Saipan

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As South Korea inches closer to lifting its self-isolation requirement for individuals who have travelled internationally and are

See BUSAN on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE
As of 7:47pm, March 17, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Additional Dose Vaccinated:	58.3%
Days since last community transmission	2

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	37,957
Fully Vaccinated:	37,174
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,342
Fully Vaccinated:	5,205
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,149
Additional Dose:	21,733

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	46,593	57	46,650
Recovered	45,195	9	45,204
Active	1,048	57	1,105
Deaths	339	2	341

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	10,535	40	10,575
Recovered	10,290	53	10,343
Active	161	40	201
Deaths	31	0	31

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

NATION
The U.S. grew wealthier and better educated during the second half of the last decade.

Page 19

WORLD
A Russian airstrike ripped apart a theater where hundreds have been living in Mariupol.

Page 21

LIFE & STYLE
Jussie Smollett is released after an appeals court agreed that he should be free pending his appeal.

Page 23

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

TAGA plus
sports business lifestyle
Check out the latest issue of Taga Plus
https://tagaplus.saipantribune.com/

Affordable Connectivity Program

SEE IF YOU QUALIFY & GET UP TO

$75 OFF YOUR INTERNET

$30 OFF with ACP + up to $45 OFF from DOCOMO PACIFIC.

Includes a FREE Router!

Scan to set an appointment with us!

FCC USAC Affordable Connectivity Program

670-488-CARE
docomopacific.com

docomo pacific Better Together

Offer valid to Consumer subscribers that are deemed serviceable from an existing DOCOMO PACIFIC plant without modification. ACP is limited to one discount per household.
Additional discount valid for 6 months upon activation. Must meet eligibility requirements to qualify for program.

Local

$3.7M sewer lift project in Chalan Kiya now complete

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Camacho

It took two years but the inner lane of the Monsignor Guerrero Road in Chalan Kiya is open to traffic once more. That means the road going downhill from Northern Marianas College is back to being a two-lane highway.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho said yesterday that the $3.7 million W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination project on Monsignor Guerrero Road in Chalan Kiya has now been completeted.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry about the project, Camacho said that RNV Construction started Phase 2 of the project in March 2020 and completed it this month.

He said roadway has been restored and the two lanes were reopened Wednesday.

Camacho said Hong Ye Construction began Phase 1 in September 2015 and completed it in April 2018.

The executive director said this project, which was funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, was the second phase for the overall W-4, W-5, and W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination project beginning in September 2015.

Under Phase 1 and 2, installed were a new W-5 Sewer Lift Station, 2,280 linear feet of new 10-inch force main, 13 sewer manholes, 2,480 linear feet of new 10-inch gravity main, and the elimination of the W-4 and W-6 Sewer Lift Stations.

Camacho said the elimination of the two sewer lift stations decreases CUC's wastewater operations' maintenance burden and expense. He said the new W-5 Sewer Lift Station was substantially improved with a new wet well, bar screen, generator building, and aboveground valve piping located outside the travel lanes for ease of access.

Camacho said the W-5 generator building was specifically improved for typhoon resilience.

He said the new 10-inch gravity main installation replaced the existing vitrified clay and PVC pipes at the end of their service life, reducing infiltration and ensuring the protection of the surrounding environment due to exfiltration.

He said the operational cost reduction can be estimated at $3,000 per year in manpower and $4,000 in electrical cost reduction based on current rates.

Camacho said the project was made possible through the cooperation and support of the CNMI Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Department of Public Works, Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Lands, Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the Historic Preservation Office.

"Special thanks to CUC's project manager Nicolette Villagomez, whose involvement with the planning and development since 2013 enabled the project's successful completion," he said.

Camacho also thanked the public for their patience and understanding during the project's duration.

NMI's COVID-19 Community Level progressing toward 'Medium'

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. announced yesterday that the CNMI has adopted the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new COVID-19 metric of Community Levels.

Overview

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres issued several executive orders that declared a state of significant emergency and outlined restrictions on activities throughout the Commonwealth in efforts to contain and mitigate the spread of the disease throughout the community.

CHCC and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force implemented protocols that are cognizant of community concerns regarding COVID-19 and administered in a manner that allows for community participation in mitigating the spread of the disease.

With the CNMI's high percentages of residents completing their primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine or receiving a booster shot, the new CDC metric falls in line with the CNMI's shift to focus on medically significant community cases.

Focusing on reducing medically significant illness and minimizing strain on the CNMI's healthcare system reflects the CDC's current approach to the SARS-CoV-2 infection, immunity from vaccination and prior infection, and the treatments available.

COVID-19 vaccines remain the best protection against severe illness, and ensuring access to vaccines, treatments, and testing remains in the CNMI's plan with living COVID-19 safe.

New Community Level metric

With the new CDC metric, the CNMI is currently in the "High" Community Level.

A combination of three factors determines the COVID-19 Community Level:

1. New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population in the past seven days;

2. The percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients;

3. Total new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the past seven days.

New COVID-19 admissions and the percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied represent the current potential for strain on the health system. Data on new cases acts as an early warning indicator of potential increases in health system strain in the event of a COVID-19 surge.

The COVID-19 Community Level is determined by the higher of the new admissions and inpatient beds metrics, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past seven days.

Based on these factors, the COVID-19 Community Level can be classified as Low, Medium, or High.

To date, cases are continuously detected via Community-Based Testing, CHCC or Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services testing, as well as at-home testing. As of March 14, 2022, a total of 10,535 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the CNMI, with 1 in 5 CNMI citizens estimated to have contracted the disease. Due to the high vaccination rate against COVID-19 in the CNMI and availability of treatments such as monoclonal antibodies, rates of severe COVID-19 have been low. A total of 213 people have been hospitalized for COVID-19 (2.1% of cases) and 31 people have died due to COVID-19 for an overall case fatality rate of 0.3%, lower than almost every other U.S. jurisdiction and most countries.

Recommendations for individual persons and households based on COVID-19 Community Levels:

I. HIGH

Wear a well-fitting mask indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status (including in K-12 schools and other indoor community settings)

If you are immunocompromised or have a high risk for severe disease:

See NMI'S on Next Page

ARMATECH

Electric Motor Rewinder and Repairer

Tel: (670) 234-8895 | Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

SAFETY TIPS

Never tamper the LPG cylinder valve / try not to extract gas from it or other than for it's intended purpose.

When moving the LPG cylinder, lift by the shroud.

You can also roll it on it's foot-ring.

LP GAS WUSHIN
Since1983 Committed to Safety Excellence

For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

The Mobility Space is Getting Greener in the Northern Mariana Islands

The mobility space is getting greener in the Northern Mariana Islands, as Enterprise Saipan announced today that it has acquired hybrid vehicles as part of its fleet of vehicles serving Saipan.

This investment not only supports demand for safe and reliable mobility options during the COVID-19 crisis but also demonstrates Enterprise's commitment to supporting local economies and driving forward environmentally friendly modes of transportation across the islands as they move out of travel restrictions.

Enterprise Saipan also upholds its commitment to maintaining the highest standards of cleanliness in the car rental industry through theimplementation of the Enterprise Complete Clean Pledge.

The Pledge further enhances cleaning protocols across Enterprise Holdings' brands and comprehensive portfolio of transportation options. This includes vehicle washing, vacuuming, general wipe down, and sanitizing with a disinfectant that meets leading health authority requirements, with particular attention to more than 20 high-touch points.

enterprise rent-a-car
Safe travels

www.enterprise.com | Email: reservations@ehiglobalsaipan.com
Corporate Office (Airport Road) (670) 288-4400 • Hotline: (671) 888-6055 • (670) 285-4405

EAT FRESH
REFRESH™
NEW YEAR. NEW CHOICES.

NEW HONEY MUSTARD ROTISSERIE-STYLE CHICKEN

NEW BAJA TURKEY AVOCADO

Limited time. Freshly prepared in front of you. Ingredients not exactly as shown.

Subway® restaurants proudly feature Coca-Cola and products.

GUAM LOCATIONS:
AAFB Exchange
Agana Shopping Center
Agat
Barrigada
Camp Blaz/NCS
Guam Premier Outlets
Micronesia Mall
Mobil Airport Road Service Station
Mobil Barrigada Heights Service Station
Mobil Mangilao Station
Mobil Yigo North Service Station
Mobil Ysengsong Service Station
Naval Hospital
NEX Mini Mart/Gas Station
Tumon

SAIPAN LOCATIONS:
Chalan Piao
Gualo Rai

SUBWAY
www.subwaypacific.com

SUBWAY® is a Registered Trademark of Subway IP Inc. ©2022 Subway IP Inc. "Coca-Cola" is a registered trademark of The Coca-Cola Company.

Villagomez declines impeachment prosecutor role

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) declined yesterday the request of Senate Committee on Impeachment Hearing chair Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian) for him to file a notice of appearance as House impeachment prosecutor.

This developed as Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) urged Villagomez and Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) yesterday to immediately look into an into alleged "ex parte" communication between Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' personal legal counsel, Viola Alepuyo, and the Senate's privately retained special legal counsel, Joe McDoulett. "Ex parte" means on one side only.

Manglona said there appears an "egregious breach of ethical conduct" that may have broken multiple criminal statutes, rules of the Senate and the American Bar Association's Rules of Professional Conduct.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to obtain comments from Alepuyo and McDoulett.

Villagomez informed King-Nabors in a letter yesterday that several House members, including Reps. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota), Corina Magofna (D-Saipan), Leila Staffler (D-Saipan), and Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) have been preparing as a team to prosecute the impeachment case against Torres and bring the matter before the Senate as soon as possible.

"I have every confidence that together, these members selected by the House and not the Senate would be able to bring to light all the facts and evidence in support of the six articles of impeachment, so that the Senate would make an informed decision on the merits and in doing so, the process of the impeachment could be objectively seen to be both fair and reasonable, whichever way the Senate decides," the Speaker said.

King-Nabors in a notice issued Wednesday said the House impeachment prosecutor (Villagomez) shall file and enter an appearance in the impeachment matter on behalf of the House on or before yesterday at 4pm at the Senate Clerk's Office.

King-Nabors said if the House impeachment prosecutor fails to file and enter an appearance on or before yesterday, Hofschneider shall select a House member to serve as impeachment prosecutor.

In his letter yesterday to Hofschneider, Villagomez said the Senate's Impeachment Rules violate Article 2 Sections 8 and 17 to the extent that these provisions deny the House and the Legislative Bureau their constitutional right to perform their duties in a fair and reasonable manner.

Villagomez added that these rules were also promulgated in violation of the CNMI Open Government Act; adequate notice and opportunity to comment on the rules prior to their adoption were not provided to the public or to Senate members, he said.

With respect to Manglona's request for an investigation, the senator claimed that he received a document titled "Senate Impeachment Rules V6.1 Joey Edits" that, according to him, shows "ex parte" communication between Alepuyo and McDoulett.

Manglona said visible in the document's tracked changes are two edits made by Alepuyo, on page 15 on Feb. 13, 2022, at 11:21am, and two changes made on Feb. 13, 2022, at 11:22am.

The senator said the edits made by McDoulett were made three days later on Feb. 16, 2022.

Manglona said this a clear indication that the governor's personal counsel either drafted the Senate rules on behalf of Torres or at the very least played a role in drafting, reviewing, and editing the rules that were eventually adopted by the Senate Impeachment Committee and the Senate body as a whole on March 3, 2022.

COVID UPDATE

40 new cases; 6 hospitalized

Forty additional individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 10,575 cases since March 28, 2020.

All 40 cases were identified on March 15, 2022, one of which was identified on Tinian. The vaccination statuses of the 40 cases are pending verification.

As of March 16, 2022, there were six individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19: three unvaccinated and three fully vaccinated

In Guam, the Joint Information Center was notified of two COVID-19-related fatalities. The 340th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Regional Medical City on March 10, 2022. The patient was a 69-year-old male, vaccinated with a booster, who had underlying health conditions and tested positive on Feb. 28.

The 341st COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Memorial Hospital on March 16, 2022. The patient was an 81-year-old male, fully vaccinated without a booster, who had underlying health conditions and tested positive on March 8.

"Jeff, Josh, and I are deeply sorry for the family and friends on the passing of their loved ones, and we pray you find healing and peace," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. "As we begin a slow and gradual lifting of restrictions, we must remain vigilant, especially among vulnerable family members."

Of the 10,575 total cases that have been identified in the CNMI, there have been 10,343 recoveries; 201 active cases; and 31 COVID-19-related deaths. A total of 31 COVID-19 vaccine shots were administered on March 16, 2022; of the eligible population, 58.3% have received an additional dose. The vaccination rate is calculated using the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI and includes the eligible 5-years-old and older population.

A total of 241 COVID-19 tests were conducted on March 15, 2022: 209 via Community-Based Testing; 18 at Koblerville COVID-19 Community Center; 14 at Rota Health Center. ***(PR, Saipan Tribune)***

BUSAN

From Page 1

fully vaccinated, the demand to travel to Saipan has increased, causing Air Busan to expand its flight schedule on its Busan-Saipan route.

According to some South Korean media reports, the low-cost carrier has expanded its one-flight-a-week schedule to two-flights-a-week starting last Wednesday.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that Air Busan's continued interest in flying a Saipan route is great news for the CNMI.

"Any airline that continues to fly [to the CNMI] is a plus for us. We can't build our economy without airlines. That's why we incentivized airlines to be partners with the Marianas Visitors Authority and hotel industry under the travel bubble agreement because we need them to come here and continue to put the CNMI on the radar in terms of tourism. That's the whole purpose of the travel bubble under the [Tourism Resumption Investment Plan], to constantly showcase the CNMI as a great tourist destination," he said.

In a previous interview with MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres, she said Air Busan initially confirmed an additional seven flights from Busan to Saipan earlier this month after the conclusion of it charter flight service back in February.

Torres said, however, that the CNMI could expect an increase in the number of flights from Busan. Starting last Wednesday, it appears Air Busan has taken the step toward increasing its weekly flights to Saipan.

Air Busan's next flight is set for March 20 and will continue through March 30.

Meanwhile, Jeju Air has also confirmed that it will be providing air service from Busan to Saipan from March 30 to Oct. 29 every Wednesday and Thursday.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

QUITUGUA

From Page 1

der created the Senate Special Committee on the Impeachment Hearing and, despite Quitugua's March 8 letter of recusal, appointed Quitugua as vice chairman.

In his March 8 letter, Quitugua said that he had already verbally expressed sometime during the first part of February 2022 in Hofschneider's conference room—with some members of the leadership present—that he will be recusing himself from participating during the impeachment hearing process and voting due to a personal conflict of interest.

Quitugua said in the spirit of transparency and respect of the "conflict of interest" provision in the official rules of the Senate and the NMI Constitution Article 2, Section 15, he has a compelling personal conflict of interest that he should disclose.

The senator said that, although the NMI Constitution talks specifically about a bill, the Senate impeachment hearing process is unique and serious, if not more serious than any bill. He said he earnestly consulted his conscience whether or not he should actively participate.

"An action to remove a governor from office is not only a serious matter but is also tantamount to overriding the majority in voting a governor into office," Quitugua said.

He said as an elected official, he performs his duties in the public interest and avoids circumstances that compromise his ability to make impartial judgments on any basis other than the public good.

Quitugua said he firmly believes that if there is something that could reasonably be deemed to compromise his impartiality or has the appearance of impropriety, he must abstain or recuse himself in order to maintain public confidence.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

IPI

From Page 1

ter granting the stipulation (agreement) among all parties involved that the receivership would be assumed by the seven workers who previously sued IPI for labor violations.

The receivership to sell IPI's assets, including its gaming machines, cars, etc., is extended again to April 13.

In her order, Manglona stated that the seven workers shall assume all the rights as to the receivership previously held by Fanter because of the size of the workers' judgment and because IPI has shown it intends to provide security in this case while their appeal remains pending.

The seven workers are Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Qingchun Xu, and Duxin Yan.

Because the workers have been included in this receivership, the court has also amended the amount that the Limited Receiver should be authorized to collect through the liquidation of IPI's gaming assets to $6 million plus any additional amounts, including attorney fees and various court fees.

However, pursuant to the Stay Agreement that was filed in court last month, the seven workers have agreed to stay enforcement on their judgment pending IPI's appeal, and to stay the limited receivership after IPI posted an initial $1 million bond.

The seven workers currently have a judgment against IPI for $5,430,595.58 and a pending application for attorneys' fees and costs.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

MAGOFNA

From Page 1

although her party affiliation may have changed, "my heart and commitment to serve our people remains the same, stout, strong, and unwavering." She added, "I feel that I must focus on working for the people of Precinct 3."

She said the voters of Precinct 3 elected her to fill a House seat that was left vacant when Rep. Ivan Blanco passed away on July 23, 2021, and that she is deeply humbled by the vote of confidence.

As to why she is running as an independent candidate and not under the NMI Democratic Party, Magofna said she made the decision after many deep and lengthy conversations and discussions with family members, friends, and, most importantly, her constituents.

"I did it to help our people and not for any particular party. My loyalty is to the people," she told *Saipan Tribune.*

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

NMI'S

From Page 3

i. Wear a mask or respirator that provides you with greater protection

ii. Consider avoiding non-essential indoor activities in public where you could be exposed

iii. Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions (e.g., testing)

iv. Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or know access to testing)

v. Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, PrEP, and monoclonal antibodies

If you have household or social contact with someone at high risk for severe disease: i. Consider self-testing to detect infection before contact

ii. Consider wearing a mask when indoors with them

Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters

Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces whenever possible

Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if

you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19

II. MEDIUM

Wear a mask based on your personal preference, informed by your personal level of risk

If you are immunocompromised or have a high risk for severe disease

Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions (e.g., testing)

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Atkins Kroll donates $10K to ARC 'Gala'

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Atkins Kroll Saipan handed over a $10,000 check yesterday to the American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter that will go toward the chapter's first "Red Cross Gala" on April 23 at the Kensington Hotel Saipan.

This donation makes Atkins Kroll Saipan a "Lifetime Achievement" sponsor, the highest tier of sponsors for American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's first gala, according to Red Cross board chair Natalie Mable Ayuyu Glenn.

Along with the check donation, part of AK's sponsorship is buying three tables at the gala, but they will be donating back one table to the Red Cross to resell, said AK Saipan sales manager Kevin Barnes.

Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh is "extremely grateful" to AK for supporting them over the years, "not only in financial donations, but also with the donation of two trucks," which has been a "big help" to the Red Cross.

Barnes said that AK Saipan is "very excited" to be a part of it and help out. He said AK Saipan has been a "long-time supporter for American Red Cross for many years on Saipan and [in] Guam."

Barnes thanked the Red Cross for what it does in the CNMI and said that "they do amazing work for the island, for the community, for the people as a whole." The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter has "done so much work in times of disaster throughout the years." Barnes also mentioned that AK Saipan will "absolutely want to be supporting the Red Cross as much as we can for as long as we can."

Others

Others who were present for the handoff included Red Cross board member Brent Deleon Guerrero, Red Cross coordinator Selmalyn Taitano, AK Saipan general manager Joel Lesh, and AK Saipan sales consultants Didi Woodruff, Kevin Ada, Nicole Sablan, Liza Taylor, and Kim Calage.

The American Red Cross website describes the Red Cross Gala as "a night to raise critically needed financial resources for the NMI Red Cross Chapter. It's an evening to celebrate and recognize our frontline stars and heroes for working tirelessly to serve our community throughout the pandemic."

A link to the fundraiser's information can be found at www.redcross.org/nmigala.

For those interested in sponsoring the event, the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter asks you to email Glenn at mable.glenn@redcross.org or call the NMI Chapter office at 670-234-3459.

LEIGH GASES

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, third from left, and Atkins Kroll Saipan general manager Joel Lesh, fifth from left, are joined by Red Cross and AK Saipan representatives at the AK Toyota showroom in their San Jose location after AK Saipan handover over a $10,000 check for the NMI Chapter's "Red Cross Gala set for April 24.

Power service outage on March 23

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on March 23, 2022, from 8:30am to 12:30pm, affecting Fina Sisu (parts of Feddos Lane) so the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. could replace a rotted wooden primary power pole and to relocate a transformer along Feddos Lane in Fina Sisu. No water well or wastewater facility will be affected.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

WANTED
PROJECT COORDINATOR
FULL-TIME
PROJECT HOPE
HEALTHY OCEANS
PEOPLE EMPOWERMENT
IF YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HAVE AN ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT.
APPLY TODAY!

ARC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan
COSTA TERRACE RESTAURANT
Weekend Buffets
Seafood NIGHT DINNER BUFFET
Every Friday • 5:30PM—9:00PM
Adults $45.00 | $38.00* • Kids (6-11) $22.50 | $19.00*
Enjoy endless seafood dishes including fresh oysters on ice, seafood boil, sushi & sashimi station, side dishes, delectable desserts, and free-flowing beer & wine!
Steak NIGHT DINNER BUFFET
Every Saturday • 5:30PM—9:00PM
Adults $45.00 | $38.00* • Kids (6-11) $22.50 | $19.00*
Enjoy all-you-can-eat steaks, grilled to your liking. Complimented with roast beef, side dishes, soup & salads, delectable desserts, and bottomless beer & wine!
Champagne SUNDAY BRUNCH
Every Sunday • 10:30AM—2:00PM
Adults $45.00 | $38.00* • Kids (6-11) $22.50 | $19.00*
Gather your family & friends for Sunday brunch featuring prime rib, roast ham, shrimp, sushi & sashimi, assorted seafood on ice, salads & sides, desserts and free-flowing sparkling wine & beer!
Reserve your table today!
Please call us at
670-322-1234
Ext #731

GUANGDONG HARDWARE

Never satisfied until you are

NEW ARRIVAL

LAVATORY FAUCET, MIRROR, GARDEN TOOLS, G.I. PIPES, SQUARE TUBES, SHORING JACK PIPE, ROOFING TIN & MANY MORE ABS, CPVC, PVC, CONDUIT PIPES & FITTINGS ARE ALL MADE IN USA ELECTRICAL TOOLS, WATER HEATER & WINDOWS

NEW ARRIVAL *Furniture*

Make a Difference for Your House!

NEW ARRIVALS! VALSPAR PAINT

It's the suitable paint for the island climate. Makes your paint last for a long time!

LED LIGHTS

- Less money, 50% energy saving!
- More stable, bright, and fashionable!
- More longer and environmental protection!

Your Smart Choice!

G60 Rebar is Available Now!

CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!

P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com

BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DISCOVER MasterCard VISA

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 090 D 01 containing an area of approximately 3,000 square meters, more or less, situated in Gualo Rai, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is D&W Saipan, Inc. The lists of officers for D&W Saipan, Inc are Hong Sup lee, Sung Moon Cho, President/Vice President and Sung Soo Lim, as Director/Corporate Secretary.

iii. The proposed lease is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by Mr. Sung Soo Lim.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of sales and services of General Automotive Products, General Merchandise, food and fuel products.

The term of the public land lease agreement is 25 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the PM Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before, March 18, 2022 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA ATKILON TÅNU´ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku mannånå'i nutisia guini put i intension-ñiha para u ma'atkila metton na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Mariånas. Maseha håyi na pattidå intirisao gi halum hinirårt pupbliku siña muna'hålum upiño, infotmasion, pat testimoniun kinontra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon nu i tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mapribeni mås mo'na ginin i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesi na infotmasion manisisita para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi kumu Lot 090 D 01 ni kunsissisti kåsi 3,000 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi gi hålum Gualo Rai, iya Saipan. I kopian påttin i lugåt managuaha gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan gi website i www.dpl.gov.mp para inspeksion.

ii. I prospective lessee sa i D&W Saipan, Inc. I listan nu ufisiåt siha para i D&W Saipan, Inc sa si Hong Sup Lee, Sung Moon Cho, Presidenti/Sigundu Presidenti, yan si Sung Soo Lim, komu Direktot/Sekritåriun i Corporate.

iii. I maproponi na atkilon ha tattiyi i regulasion DPL siha yan ginen manegosiu ni as Siñot Sung Soo Lim.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt put atyu ha' na rason nu i binendi yan sitbisiun nu "General Automotive Products, General Merchandise", nengkanu' yan produktun i "fuel" siha.

I tema nu i maproponi na kontråtan atkilon sa' bentisingku (25) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilon gi kada' såkkan gi durånti teman kontråtan i` atkilon mapega gi put sientus nu i bålin "appraised fair market" i propiedåt yan i aplikåo na put sientus nu i "Business Gross Receipts" gi halum i regulasion DPL.

v. I kopian nu i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan i Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong Village, Luta; pat i primet (1st) na bibiendan i PM Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia debi lokkui' na managuaha online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya marisibi ni håfa na tinahguin inofresi siha ni para u ma'atkila i suhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi Gualo Rai, giya Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta tinigi' upiñon, infotmasion, testimoniun kinontra pat tinahguin prinoponi siha ginin i manintirisão na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Matso 18, 2022 gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Sa'ipan, Luta pat Tini'an.

ARONGORONGOL TOULAP REEL KKAPASAL PPWOMWOL ATKKILOONOOL

Sángi Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re isiisiwow arongorong reel igha re mángemángil rebwe atkkilaay akkááw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Schóó kka re tipáli rebwe isiisilong kkapas, "data", "views", ngáre angiingil eew ppwomwol atkkiloonol faluweer toulap.

i. Ppwomwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap e bwáálo bwe Lot 090 D 01 e lo bwe 3,000 reel "square meters", elapeló ngáre eghus, iye e lo Gualo Rai, Seipél. Pappidil falúw yeel eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól "website" me www.dpl.gov.mp ngáre u mwuschel amwuri.

ii. Ppwomwol schóól atkkilóón nge D&W Saipan, Inc. List-al "officers" ngáli D&W Saipan, Inc nge Hong Sup lee, Sung Moon Cho, bwe "President/Vice President" me Sung Soo Lim, bwe "Director/Corporate Secretary".

iii. Ppwomwol atkkilóón nge e angúúngú fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e abwungubwung sángi Mr. Sung Soo Lim.

iv. Schóól atkkilóónol ebwe yááyá falúw ngáli mwóghutughutúl akkaméélól me angaangil "General Automotive Products", "General Merchandise" mwonggo me "fuel products".

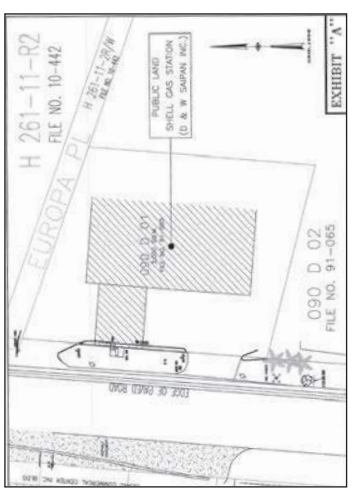
Kkapasal ppwomwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón nge ruweigh me limoow ráágh.

Ppwomwol atkkilóón ghal ráágh atol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón nge e lo reel "percentage" sángi "appraised fair market value" reel falúw e bwal schuulong "application percentage of Business Gross Receipts" llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil ppwomwol abwungubwungúl atkkilóón emmwel ubwe bweibwogh me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel JoetenDandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor me De'Ana Commercial Building, Apilómwol Songsong, Luuta; ngáre1st floor me PM Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappid yeel "online" me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh ppwomw ikka e lo bwe "alternative" ppwomwol ngáli atkkiloonol falúw iye e lo Gualo Rai, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rebwe bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, "views", angiingi ngáre "alternate proposals" sángi schóó kka re mwuschel wóól ngáre mmwalil Maailap 18, 2022 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap ikka e lo wóól Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.



Red Cross to honor 'volunteer heroes'

The American Red Cross-Pacific Islands Region will honor 16 individuals from across the islands for their exemplary volunteer work at their Heroes Recognition Event to be held virtually on Sunday March 27, 2022. These volunteers have gone above and beyond in their roles contributing to the humanitarian mission of the Red Cross.

Volunteers from the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Hawaii have been selected by their fellow volunteers or distinguished by their volunteer time to receive this honor.

Those who will be recognized as Volunteers of the Year include Mable Glenn of the Northern Mariana Islands, Lisa Morales as Kauai Volunteer of the Year, Flinn Curren as Oahu Volunteer of the Year, Loren Lapow as Maui Volunteer of the Year, Cyndi Davies-Wong as Hawaii Island Volunteer of the Year, Marcos Fong of Guam, and Claire Cappelle of American Samoa.

The Mission Heroes awardees are Richard Defan (Saipan), Andrei Umali (Maui), Warren White (Hawaii Island), Dan Cogar (Guam), Dr. Alyssa Aguilar (Oahu), Caleb Alarcon (Oahu), and Dr. Karen Burmeister (Oahu).

The Dedicated Deployer (Disaster Response) will go to John Decker, while the award for Most Volunteer Hours Logged will go to Reziel Alarcon. ***(PR, Saipan Tribune)***

MCS Early Bird discounts for families

Mount Carmel School will continue to provide discounts for families for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Early Bird Special provides families with more than one child over $500 off of the overall tuition. Families with two children can avail of a $600 tuition discount for the second child, families with three children can avail of a $1,000 tuition discount for the third child, and families with four children can avail of a $1,500 tuition discount for the fourth child.

Additionally, the annual early bird registration discount is as follows: For grades K4 - K5 registration is $75 per student (normally $100). For students in grades first through twelfth, the registration fee is $200 per student (normally $400.) The deadline for the Early Bird registration and fees is scheduled for May 2, 2022.

The school will be exploring ways to expand scholarship funding and financial aid. This may include earmarking a portion of all Education Tax Credit revenue.

In addition to the family discounts, students can apply for Mount Carmel School's academic scholarships, extra-curricular scholarships, or financial aid programs. The total award for each recipient is $750. The online portal for academic and extracurricular scholarships will open on May 2, 2022. In order to apply for scholarships and financial aid, families must have their child successfully enrolled for the 2022-2023 school year.

To learn more about enrolling at Mount Carmel School for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year, call 234-6184 or visit www.mountcarmel-saipan.com. ***(PR)***

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement and Property Management
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6824 I www.marianas.edu

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
NMCRQS 22-001

ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES
PLANNING, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES PROJECT

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting for interested firms "Qualification Statements" for Architectural/Engineering Services for the Center for Research Extension and Development project.

The request for "Statement of Qualification (RQS)" packets are available at NMC, Procurement Office commencing 10:00am Friday, February 25, 2022 or Electronic packet email request to anita.camacho@marianas.edu.

Pre-submittal conference is schedule for 09:00am-10:00am, March 07, 2022 CNMI Via Zoom.

Attendance is not mandatory but is strongly recommended.

Qualification Statements Submissions
Due date and time: 10:00am, March 28, 2022 (CNMI)
Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg. P, As Terlaje Campus

Paid for by 100% federal funds through the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant.

This Request for Statement of Qualification under Article 7, "Local Business Preference" as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all Qualification Statements for any reason and waive any defect in said Qualification Statements, or cancel in part or its entirety this Request for Qualification Statements, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

Premium PRE-OWNED CARS

NISSAN · Ford · KIA · HONDA

MATT BLANCO, *Sales Consultant*
Visit or call 234-5562

QUALITY **SELECTION** **LOW PRICES**

NOW **$12,995**

2017 KIA RIO LX
STOCK # H6034827, FWD, 4CYL, Automatic,
Est. Mileage: 22,888, Color: BLUE

NOW **$14,995**

2015 HONDA CIVIC EX
STOCK# FE003666, FWD, 4 CYL, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 61,458, Color: GRAY

NOW **$15,995**

2015 NISSAN ALTIMA SV
STOCK # FC475899 FWD, 4 CYL 2.5L, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 44,069, Color: SILVER

NOW **$16,995**

2019 HONDA HRV LX
STOCK # KM700541, FWD, 4 CYL, Auto,
Est. Mileage: 62,400, Color: GRAY

NOW **$17,995**

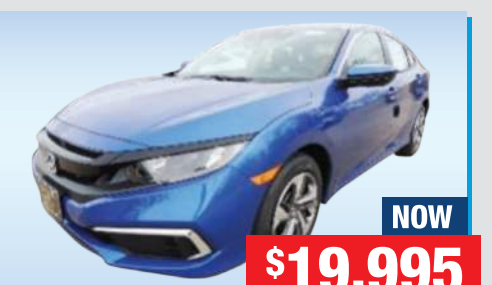
2018 NISSAN SENTRA S
STOCK # JY210359, FWD, 4CYL, Auto Est.
Mileage: 30,281, Color: WHITE

NOW **$19,600**

2020 KIA SOUL LX
STOCK # L7050251, FWD, 4-Cyl, Automatic
Est. Mileage: 26,057, Color: GOLD

NOW **$19,600**

2020 KIA SOUL LX
STOCK # L7048353, FWD, 4-Cyl, Auto
Est. Mileage: 23128, Color: BLUE



NOW **$19,995**

2019 HONDA CIVIC LX
STOCK # KE008511, FWD, 4-Cyl, Automatic
Est. Mileage: 39,000, Color: BLUE

NOW **$19,995**

2015 CHEVY CAMARO LT
STOCK # F9140085, RWD, 6CYL, Auto
Est. Mileage: 38,188 Color: YELLOW

NOW **$19,995**

2019 NISSAN SENTRA S
STOCK # KY206649, FWD, 4-Cyl, 1.8 Liter, Automatic,
CVT w/Xtronic, Est. Mileage: 29,969, Color: GRAY

NOW **$21,600**

2021 KIA SELTOS LX
STOCK # M7130276, FWD, 4-Cyl, Automatic
Est. Mileage: 24,988, Color: GRAY

NOW **$22,995**

2019 HONDA CIVIC LX
STOCK # KE040804, FWD, 4-CYL, MT 6 SPEEDZ
Est. Mileage: 17,528, Color: SILVER

NOW **$22,995**

2019 HONDA HRV LX
STOCK # KM703170, AWD, 4-Cyl, Auto
Est. Mileage: 23,388, Color: RED

NOW **$23,995**

2016 HONDA PILOT
STOCK# GB099963, AWD, V6 i-VTEC 3.5L, Automatic,
Est. Mileage: 48,324, Color: Silver

NOW **$23,995**

2019 HONDA HR-V SPORT
STOCK # KM701264, FWD, 4 CYL, Auto
Est. Mileage: 32,888, Color: SILVER

NOW **$24,995**

2020 NISSAN ROGUE SPORT
STOCK # LW273655, FWD, 4CYL, Auto,
Est. Mileage: 4,350, Color: GRAY

NOW **$27,600**

2019 NISSAN ROGUE S
STOCK # KW264398, FWD, 4-Cyl, Auto
Est. Mileage: 14,928, Color: GRAY

NOW **$27,600**

2020 NISSAN SENTRA SR
STOCK # LY249008, FWD, 4CYL 2.0 L, AUTO
Est. Mileage: 388, Color: MAROON

WAS $28,995

NOW **$27,995**

2019 HONDA CIVIC HB
STOCK # KU228086, FWD, 4CYL, AUTO,
Est. Mileage: 16468, Color: RALLY RED

NOW **$27,995**

2017 HONDA PILOT LX
STOCK # HB091042, AWD, 6CYL 3.5L, Auto
Est. Mileage: 24,500, Color: WHITE

Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 5 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON
TEL. (670) 234-5562

See dealer for details regarding the Joeten customer checklist. Some conditions apply.

Like us on Facebook

JOETEN CUSTOMER CHECKLIST

FREE OIL CHANGES FOR A YEAR · FREE 24 HOUR ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE · FREE 24 HOUR BASIC TOWING SERVICE · FREE SHUTTLE RIDES · 48 HOUR VEHICLE EXCHANGE

97.8% of FSM adults aged 45+ now fully vaccinated, 19% boosted

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—Although progress during the period of mandatory vaccination across the Federated States of Micronesia remains less than ideal, as of March 16, 2022, FSM has nearly reached several of its total vaccination goals.

For adults aged 45 years and up, 97.8% of FSM adults are fully vaccinated (i.e., have received two doses of the Moderna and/or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines, or the one-dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine). Also, 19% of FSM adults aged 45 years and up have received a booster dose. Numerically, this constitutes 18,616 persons aged 45 and up who are fully vaccinated, and 3,618 who are boosted.

For adults aged between 18 to 44 years, 71.6% of FSM adults are fully vaccinated; 9.5% of adults aged between 18 to 44 years have received a booster dose. Numerically, this constitutes 28,387 persons aged between 18 to 44 who are fully vaccinated and 3,787 who are boosted.

For adolescents aged between 12 to 17 years, 41% of FSM adolescents are fully vaccinated. These figures are highest in the states of Yap and Kosrae, with rates at 80.5% and 76.9% respectively, and lowest in the states of Chuuk and Pohnpei, with rates at 33.3% and 31.2% respectively. Numerically, 4,210 FSM adolescents are fully vaccinated.

It is expected that the Chuuk and Pohnpei rates will increase significantly over the next several weeks, as 59.3% of Chuukese adolescents have received at least one dose of the vaccine, and 62.2% of Pohnpeian adolescents have received at least one dose of the vaccine. Numerically, 6,711 FSM adolescents are partially vaccinated.

For children aged between 5 to 11 years, 27.7% of FSM children are fully vaccinated. These figures are highest in the states of Yap and Kosrae, with rates at 42.4% and 38.4% respectively, and lowest in the states of Pohnpei and Chuuk, with rates at 30.3% and 20.3% respectively. Numerically, 3,760 FSM children are fully vaccinated.

It is expected that the Pohnpei and Chuuk vaccination rates for children aged 5 to 11 will increase significantly over the next several weeks, as 55.2% of Pohnpeian children have received at least one dose of the vaccine, and 49.2% of Chuukese children have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

Some 65.6% of the nation's total eligible population (all persons aged 5 and up) is fully vaccinated, and 74.9% of the nation's total eligible population has received at least one dose of the vaccine. Some 8.7% of the nation's total eligible population has received a booster dose.

FSM has enough vaccines for every person to become fully vaccinated and boosted. The vaccine mandate remains in effect for all FSM citizens residing in the FSM.

As of March 16, the FSM remains COVID-19 free.

While it is not within the scope of this release to announce repatriation dates, the FSM national government is presently conducting readiness assessments across all four FSM states. It is increasingly likely that the FSM will resume repatriation flights in April, 2022.

The report from the Department of Health & Social Affairs which informs the contents of this release may be found here: https://gov.fm/files/FSM_covid_coverage_3-13-22_Statewide-final.pdf ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Office of the Secretary

Caller Box 10007 Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Tel. (670) 664-2587 Fax (670) 664-2571

Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
Secretary

Vivian Sablan
Administrator
Division of Youth Services

Rita Chong
Historic Preservation Officer
Historic Preservation Office

Parker Yobei
Executive Director
Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture

Walter A. Manglona
Director
Office on Aging

Walter I. Macaranas
Administrator
Nutrition Assistance Program

Melvin Faisao
Executive Director
Chamorro / Carolinian Language Policy Commission

Maribel D. Loste, M.Ed
Program Administrator
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDBG)

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Gordon Salas
Childcare Licensing Program

Garapan Street Market

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (CCDF) PROGRAM
2022 SUMMER PROGRAM

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program announces an opportunity for non-profit, community-based organizations and autonomous agencies to participate in the CCDF 2022 Summer Program Grant. This grant is open to organizations that offer Summer Program/Activities to all school-aged children between the ages 6 to 12 years old. For this grant, a total of 20 awards will be provided (Saipan-10, Tinian-5, Rota-5). CCDF has the right to award smaller grant awards as appropriate. CCDF Summer Program Grant Application Packets may be picked up at the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program Office, building No. 1347 Ascension Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. Electronic copies may be requested by sending an email to ccdf.violdiaz65@gmail.com.

Interested applicants should submit one (1) original and another copy in a thumb drive of the completed application and requirements, sealed and marked: CCDF Summer Program Grant Application 2022. Attention: Viola Diaz, Administrative Specialist. All applications must be stamped and received no later than April 15, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. Incomplete applications will not be accepted and returned.

CCDF will only accept written inquiries regarding this grant opportunity and should be addressed to Viola Diaz on or before 4:00 p.m. March 31, 2022. Inquiries received after this date and time will not be entertained. All inquiries should be submitted via email at ccdf.violdiaz65@gmail.com with subject heading CCDF 2022 Summer Program. Responses will be provided via email and posted on www.cnmicclp.gov.mp

/s/ Maribel S. D. Loste
CCDF Administrator
02/28/2022
Date

/s/ Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
DCCA Secretary
03/01/2022
Date

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

INVITATION FOR BIDS
SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-002-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for ***Solid Waste Collection Services*** for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The ***bid package*** containing all the specifications, date of pre-bid meeting, and other requirements will be available at the Accounting Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Departure Building beginning ***March 02, 2022*** upon payment of ***$50.00*** in cash, cashiers check or credit card. All responses to this IFB shall take into account any costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

Bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport until ***2:00 PM LOCAL TIME, Friday, April 01, 2022.*** Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked: ***"Bid for Solid Waste Collection Services at the Saipan International Airport, Project No. CPA-IFB-002-22".*** Bidders are to submit one (1) original and three (3) copies.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • PHONE: (670) 237-6500 • FAX: (670) 234-5962
WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES AIR-SIDE

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for grounds maintenance services of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Proposal Package will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning March 18, 2022.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Grounds Maintenance Services (Air-Side) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport) Project No-CPA-RFP-004-22". One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, APRIL 18, 2022, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

There will be no Pre-Proposal Conference but proposers will be allowed to do Site Visits by calling CPA Deputy Executive Director, Ed Mendiola at telephone numbers 237-6505 during working hours.

Written questions and/or clarifications regarding this project will be entertained up till April 11, 2022.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this RFP; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding this project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA, CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of CPA.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
March 14, 2022

Disabilities council names Tiava To'omata 'Advocate of the Year'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities and its disability networka partners have named Tiava To'omata the 2022 Advocate of the Year.

During the 2022 Developmental Disabilities and Employment Awareness month proclamation and recognition ceremony last Tuesday, To'omata, a program aide at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc., was awarded the Advocate of the Year plaque in recognition of the work she's done in her field.

To'omata

Aside from To'omata, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities also named Nora Aquino Tinian an Advocate of the Year.

As a program aide at NMPASI, To'omata provides support to advocates who deal with individuals with disabilities who complain of being discriminated against, or who feel like their rights have been violated. To'omata is in charge of looking into these claims.

"We investigate and we seek justice for them. At the end of the day, my goal is to help our disability community in any way I can. And that right now is what I'm doing and I feel most comfortable in," she said.

To'omata started her career working with the disabilities community over a year ago. She started at the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation where she first served as an employment specialist. There, To'omata said here role was to place individuals with disabilities in different workforces in either the government or private sector.

Before working as an employment specialist, To'omata also spent some time as a planner with the OVR where she met with policy makers to suggest ways to make workforces more accessible to individuals with disabilities.

To'omata said her inspiration to pursue this career path is her sister who is also a person with disabilities.

"Personally, a lot of my family members have been people with disabilities and I've taken care of a lot of them, my younger sister especially. It has been an inspiration to me to help her out. Now, it's a career path that I've been blessed to follow. I guess the situation surrounding me inspired me to be someone who could help and do more so this is how I do more," she said.

To'omata said her goal is to give individuals with disabilities the opportunity to show that they are more than their disability. "I believe that what we can all do to help support is to provide people with disabilities an opportunity to show that they are not just disabled, that they have abilities and these abilities can impact our community in ways that we never can even imagine," she said.

Ana Margarita B. Benavente
Administratrix
P.O. Box 504662, Saipan, MP 96950
Email: abben65@yahoo.com
Mobile: (670) 483-5669

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: GEORGE SABLAN BENAVENTE: Deceased/ Decedent.	Civil Action No. 21-0118 **NOTICE OF HEARING ON ADMINISTRATRIX MOTION FOR DECREE OF FINAL DISTRIBUTION** DATE: MARCH 31, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M. JUDGE: JOSEPH N. CAMACHO

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Administratrix for the Estate of George Sablan Benavente, Ana Margarita Borja Benavente, has moved the Superior court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) to issue a Decree of Final Distribution.

The hearing on the Administratrix's request is scheduled to be heard on the date and time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Interested person or entity making known of creditor claim filed within the sixty (60) day period of publication of notice to creditors in this probate action in the Estate of George Sablan Benavente may appear at this hearing.

Dated this 23rd day of February, 2022.

/s/_____
CLERK OF COURT

Brilliant Star School
Global Understanding • Service to Humanity • Exemplary Character • Creative Minds

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION/TITLE: Principal/Head of School
OPENING DATE: March 1, 2022
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Until Filled

NATURE OF WORK:
The primary role of the Principal is to articulate the vision and mission of the school, provide academic leadership, take leadership in the admissions and recruitment process, build community among students and families: recruit and coach faculty members and staff, oversee the financial health of the school, serve as the school's primary spokesperson to the larger community, and lead the process of internal self-evaluation and long-term planning. The activities of the Principal are guided by the Board of Trustees.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
Graduation from U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Education or related field, plus at least two years of teaching experience and two years of supervisory experience in a similar setting. A background in Montessori teaching or knowledge thereof is a plus.

SALARY/BENEFITS:
Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (Including 401K benefits, Health insurance, Paid Leave/Holidays.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:
- Good interpersonal and communication skills. Communicate effectively both orally and in writing, including giving and receiving feedback.
- Awareness of and sensitivity to cultural issues and local community practices.
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Ability to motivate others to reach their fullest potential.
- Excellent Office Automation Skills (Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Social Media, and Google Tools.
- Excellent Record Keeping Skills/Filing & Document Management.
- Ability to adapt to changing situations.

Interested Applicants may obtain full job description and employment application form at the Brilliant Star office on Navy Hill or via email to Steven Beyer at principal@brilliantstar.org. Completed application forms and required documents may be submitted at the Brilliant Star office or via email at principal@brilliantstar.org. The Brilliant Star office can be reached for inquires at (670) 323-7827

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:
1. Completed Brilliant Star Employment Application form
2. Cover Letter and Resume
3. Copy of Diploma

Other documents may be requested and must be submitted to be considered for this position. Your

MICHAEL N. EVANGELISTA, ESQ.
(CNMI Bar No. F0364)
LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA EVANGELISTA, LLC
D' Torres Building, Garapan
P.O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 235-8060; Fax: (670) 235-8070
Email: mnevangelista8@gmail.com
Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, Plaintiff, -v- ORRIN O. PHARMIN and LAURA TAMAN OGUMORO, Defendants.	Civil Action No. 18-0109 NOTICE OF AUCTION ON THE MORTGAGED PROPERTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 18, 2021, the court-approved auctioneer, Mr. Richard S. Villagomez, will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property:

Legal description of the property:
Lot 002 G 134, Kagman, Saipan, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 04, the original of which was recorded on May 14, 1990, under File No. 90-1901 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale:
The sale will be held on the 8th day of April, 2022 at 11:00 a.m., at the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC, D'Torres Building, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.
The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Condition of Sale:
The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the Law Offices of Michael N. Evangelista, LLC, D'Torres Building, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED this 3rd day of March, 2022.

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL NORITA EVANGELISTA, LLC.
/s/ Michael N. Evangelista, Esq. (Bar No. 0364)
Attorney for Plaintiff

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of Francisco C. Agulto Deceased.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0053 NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rebecca C. White has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Francisco C. Agulto, Deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on THURSDAY, April 14, 2022, at the hour of 10:00 a.m.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Francisco C. Agulto, Deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: 07 March 2022

/s/ JOSEPH N. CAMACHO, Associate Judge

EXPRESS FINANCIAL
Your dependable money source

Wondering if your Tax Rebate or Refund will be paid on time this year?

Need your cash now?

Express Financial can lend you up to 70% of your verified tax rebate NOW!

NO CREDIT HISTORY NECESSARY.
As long as you have a veritable source of income with the ability to make the payments. Express Financial will lend against your tax returns.

Perhaps it's not a tax refund loan you are looking for; Express Financial has plenty of cash and makes loans for all your financial needs with the fastest services on island. Express Financial can get you the cash you want for your summer fix-up projects or taking that long awaited family vacation. Come in to see us TODAY or give us a call and we can take your application right over the phone. Our job is to help you succeed financially.

Choose any of these 3 convenient options to apply

OPTION 1 *Call us direct at **(670) 235-6032** and our friendly local staff will be happy to take your application over the phone.*

OPTION 2 *Fill out the attached application and fax to **(670) 235-6040** and we will call you within a few minutes of receiving the fax.*

OPTION 3 *Fill out the attached application, scan and email to **cccar6985users@carfinancial.com** and a friendly member of our sales team will call you.*

***EXPRESS FINANCIAL** is your local money source for quick cash for all your needs.*

Helping you succeed financially is our top priority. In most cases we can get the cash in your hands the same day we receive your application.

Town House Shopping Center
Chalan Kanoa Beach Road (across Mt. Carmel Cathedral)

Tel. (670) 235-6032
P.O. Box 504084, Saipan MP 96950

QUICK APPLICATION

PRIMARY APPLICANT
First Name: _____ M.I. ____ Last Name: _____
Employer: _____
Length of Employment: _____ Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you:
Best Time To Call _____ Best Number To Call _____

SECONDARY APPLICANT
First Name: _____ M.I. ____ Last Name: _____
Employer: _____
Length of Employment: _____ Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you:
Best Time To Call _____ Best Number To Call _____
Mailing Address: Street/Box _____ Village _____ Zip Code _____

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXII, Issue No. 55

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

America's political right seems to feel kinship with a murderous autocrat. Why?

While most Americans pull for Ukraine and its resistance to Russia's invasion, Rep. Madison Cawthorn, R-N.C., recently called Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy a "thug" and labeled his government "incredibly evil." It's part of a broader phenomenon among hard-right politicians who have found a soft spot for Russia and its monstrous leader. It's time to ask some hard questions about the American right's fetishization of Vladimir Putin's violent autocracy.

Historically, hawkish conservatives were the toughest talkers regarding America's chief global adversary. Even after the fall of Soviet communism, U.S. politicians understood (until recently) that a non-communist Russia didn't necessarily mean a non-threatening Russia. Russia's post-communist government has never fully embraced democracy and lost ground on that front under Putin. Russia's nuclear arsenal remains an existential threat to humanity.

Yet there's Tucker Carlson on Fox News, blithely declaring that America has no legitimate interest in opposing Russia's unprovoked invasion of a nascent democracy. As Mother Jones reported Sunday, a Kremlin propaganda office has distributed a memo telling state-controlled media to "use as much as possible fragments of broadcasts of the popular Fox News host Tucker Carlson."

How proud Carlson must be to see his name written—in Russian—on an official Kremlin document.

Then there's the recent white nationalist event that Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene attended in Florida. As if her implied acceptance of the group's flagrant racism wasn't bad enough, Greene took the stage even after the crowd applauded Russia and chanted Putin's name. Add to that Cawthorn's savage assessment of a U.S. ally that Russia is currently pounding mercilessly—and his and other conservative votes against sanctioning Russia or providing military aid to Ukraine—and it's clear that, in this battle between a democracy and an autocracy, today's hard-right feels kinship with the latter.

Is this trend toward Kremlin-coddling by the American right as simple as following Donald Trump's lead? For whatever mysterious reasons, the ex-president's deference to Putin while he was in office was nothing less than bizarre. From his grotesque endorsement of Putin's lies on the podium in Helsinki, to his abandonment of Kurdish military allies in Syria, to his undermining of the NATO alliance, to his attempt to strong-arm Zelenskyy for political help by endangering its defense against Russia, Trump couldn't have been more helpful to the Kremlin if he'd been on its payroll.

Trump, still in Putin's thrall, initially called his invasion of Ukraine "genius." After some blowback, he resorted to tougher language against Russia—though he still refuses to say an unkind word regarding Putin. Even in a remarkable Fox News interview last week, in which Trump-friendly host Sean Hannity all but implored him to acknowledge that Putin

See AMERICA'S on Next Page

How to help Ukraine? Prioritize food and migration

"If you had a billion dollars to spend, how could you best help the world?" It is a question I hear a lot, and with the intensification of the conflict in Ukraine, it has only become more urgent. There is a philosophical movement, Effective Altruism, devoted to this issue, but mostly the debate about charity has been set in a world with a relatively stable geopolitical order. How should war change the answers?

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg News

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. His books include Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero.

I don't know how best to help the immediate victims in Ukraine, but I have some ideas about how the conflict should change broader philanthropic priorities. In times of war, it is all the more important to focus altruistic efforts on two issues: food and migration.

During wartime, basic human needs become more pressing, most of all food. For instance, Ukraine supplies much of the world's grain, including to many of the world's poorer countries. The largest importers of Ukrainian grain are Egypt, Turkey, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Pakistan, and in percentage terms Yemen, Libya and Lebanon are especially dependent. To the extent the conflict and sanctions disrupt Russia as well, Russia is not only a major grain exporter but also the largest exporter of fertilizer.

With so much of Ukraine under siege, these supplies are a mix of blockaded or endangered, thereby creating hunger and malnutrition risk for grain importers.

Increasing the productivity of agriculture, especially in poorer countries, now should be a higher priority. When food supply from one source such as Ukraine is shut off, poorer nations should have other supply options. The Green Revolution has been wonderful for India and Pakistan by increasing crop yields—but it turns much more agricultural innovation is necessary.

One danger is that a more conflict-prone world will become more protectionist and restrictionist, to ensure the availability of domestic supplies, whether of food or other commodities. That would make it harder for the poorest and most victimized societies to find alternate supply sources when faced with crises. The goal should be a world of food plenty and relatively free trade, not national self-sufficiency.

The important point is how the relative calculus changes in times of major conflict.

In a world at peace, public health interventions yield high returns, and they probably still will in wartime. But their relative benefits, compared to other interventions, may diminish. Saving lives with medicine is worthwhile, but many medicines are expensive. If lives can be saved by the mere shipment and trade of food, and at a profit at that, that will be preferred over saving lives with medicine.

The transfer of public health services also may be less damaged by wartime conditions. Often the public health remedies come from the U.S., Western Europe, or a small number of other relatively wealthy countries. Those countries are less likely to be affected by major wars. So if a major war does come along, the flow of such public health remedies probably requires less repair work than does the flow of food. Unlike advanced medicines, foodstuffs are very frequently traded from one poor or middle-income country to another.

Another philanthropic priority in wartime is the discovery and reallocation of talent. Before, during and after World War II, for instance, a significant portion of Europe's cultural and scientific talent moved to the U.S. or other Anglo countries. Both the U.S. and the global scientific community were much better off as a result.

It is thus all the more imperative that talented people leaving Russia, Ukraine and Belarus have good options. Not only could their talents be squandered if they stay, but their productivity could be improved if they leave. Russia, Ukraine and Belarus have reasonable education systems and long histories of producing gifted artists and scientists.

How good is the infrastructure for getting people out of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus? How readily can the refugees be matched to where they ought to go? Is there supportive infrastructure along the way? What about the Russians who are outside of Russia's border and don't want to go back—what kind of legal status might they hope to achieve?

Heroic efforts are being made to help the Ukrainian refugees, but much of it is improvised. The world can do much better, including for citizens of Russia and Belarus, and I hope we will.

NMI welcomes Oceania National Olympics Committee as preparations continue for the Pacific Mini Games

TOGETHER, WE CAN
By MARCO PETER
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Marco Taisakan Peter, chairman for NMI Pacific Mini Games, was born in North Carolina and raised in the CNMI. Peter's purpose is to bring cultural awareness and build relationships within the Marianas and Pacific region. He's a businessman who has expertise in multi-level marketing, consulting, and brokering for over 25 years. He studied sociology in Chicago and Oregon respectively where he met the love of his life.

When I became the board chairman for the Pacific Mini Games Council, I saw an opportunity to encourage the principles of sport, fitness, and competition within the Oceania community. Being an athlete all my life, sports has taught me the importance of fitness and competition, which is fostering a positive attitude, discipline, and hard work. In less than 100 days, the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 will take place here in the Northern Mariana Islands. An event held every four years, the PMG gives athletes of this region the platform to demonstrate their agility, talent, and the fruits of their labor.

PMG's Planning Committee has been boots-on-the-ground, coordinating this event, bringing in equipment, and securing venue sites for an event that is expected to bring in more than 5,000 people to the CNMI. We will also expand to host sports events on Rota and Tinian. Tinian will host the beach volleyball events, and Rota will host the triathlon.

We couldn't have done it ourselves. The PMG Council actively collaborates with the Oceania National Olympics Committee, an International Olympic Committee. In fact, many of the countries that are ONOC members are participating in the games.

The past week, the CNMI hosted about 30 delegates from organizations/member federations that include the Cook Islands, Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam National Olympic Committee and Guam delegates, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, and ORADO—an anti-doping organization. The delegates will discuss the PMG, attend a logistics presentation, and tour the venues and facilities.

I am grateful for the ONOC's visit to assist in other technical aspects as we prepare to deliver the biggest event the CNMI has ever hosted. In addition, we will be providing hotel accommodations for our athletes, setting an extraordinary precedence for host countries to follow.

The CNMI community is buzzing over the Pacific Mini Games. The people are ready to hang flags from their homes and businesses to show support for the participating countries. I am sure we will continue to show that the CNMI has the best hospitality in the Pacific.

To our CNMI players: win or lose, we are all rooting for you. We are all proud of your dedication and commitment in representing the CNMI. I remember someone once told me, "There are five Ss of sports: stamina, speed, strength, skill, and spirit, but the greatest of these is spirit."

As for our visiting players, we are ready to enjoy playing with you all! We cannot wait to make the PMG a successful event with memories that will last a lifetime.

The Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games Organizing Committee is excited to host everyone coming from all over the Pacific. We can't wait to show them the amazing Mini Games that we have in store!

Si yu'us ma'åse and *ghilisow* to the Honorable Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his administration for the continued assistance and support as we put together the final touches to making the Pacific Mini Games an amazing event.

Together, We Can!

For more information, visit the GCEA at cnmieconomy.com, on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

The evolution of the manual wheelchair

By JOHN ALLEN CABRERA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The manual wheelchair is one of the most common types of assistive technology medically used today. Manual wheelchairs have come a long way since their first creation. There is doubt about who invented the first wheelchair. As a wheelchair user (a person that uses a wheelchair) I've seen the evolution of the "manual wheelchair." Manual wheelchair by definition is one that is driven by the user pushing on bars that surround the wheels. The most common type of wheelchair features has a 24" rear-wheel used to steer and two front caster wheels. Most traditional manual wheelchairs range from 10 to 20 lbs and are usually bulky with no disassemble features.

The manual wheelchair has evolved into a more self-sufficient assistive technology from the first-generation manual wheelchairs. The most advanced feature of today's manual wheelchair I would say is the weight. Traditional wheelchairs could weight up to 20 lbs or more, depending on the weight limit of the chair. Nowadays wheelchair users have the option to choose from a lightweight frame and parts that are usually made from aluminum or sometimes carbon fiber material. Aluminum chairs range from 7 to 10 lbs, depending on additional accessories if any. Today's wheelchair has so many accessories to choose from, unlike traditional chairs. You have the choice of two types of pneumatic tires: solid (hard rubber) or air knobby thread, which are also for off road terrain. Personally, I chose solid rubber so it never gets flat. Other fancy accessories are 0 inch to 6-inch cambers that make the large wheels slant to a certain degree for mobility and making sharp turns without tipping sideways. Other features of today's manual wheelchairs are the ability to disassemble. In the past wheelchair didn't have the option to collapse or disassemble, making it hard to transport. Tires have the feature to be snap on or off, making loading easier. Back support can be folded up or down for storage. You now have the option to choose the color of the chair, unlike the traditional chair, which only came in steel. Rims can be spokes or fiberglass-like material. Also, seat cushions are more advanced now to prevent pressure sores.

Today you see many types of manual wheelchairs around the world in paralympic games and in everyday society, helping individuals with physical disabilities be more independent and productive contributors to their society.

NMPASI is the CNMI designated organization that protects the civil, legal, and human rights of people with disabilities. For more information on our programs and services, please contact NMPASI at our office numbers (670) 235-7273/4, text message (670) 287-0652, or visit our website at www.nmpasi.org., and follow us on Instagram @nmpasi670.

John Allen Cabrera is a client advocate at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

Putin has made his bet against American democracy. It's time to prove him wrong

By ZACH WAMP and TIM ROEMER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Vladimir Putin's unprovoked attack against Ukraine has triggered a forceful and blistering response from the global community that has united our allies against the Russian leader's brutality. His decision to invade a free and sovereign nation was a reckless miscalculation, but it reveals a larger gambit we must confront in the ongoing fight against tyranny.

Putin is betting that America no longer has the resolve to defend democracy abroad or stem its hemorrhaging at home. At this pivotal moment in history, it is vital that we prove him and other authoritarians wrong.

Putin's invasion follows an increasingly brazen pattern of behavior designed to undermine Western democracies and expand Russian influence. That includes his own meddling in our 2016 and 2020 elections, where he weaponized disinformation to fan partisan flames. He's escalated his assault by starting a senseless ground war in Europe.

This threat to our global security did not happen overnight. Democracy itself has been in a recession for 16 consecutive years, according to a recent study by Freedom House. Putin thinks his brand of authoritarianism is winning, but he has underestimated the resolve of Ukraine's people as well as the United States and our NATO allies. That's why it's imperative that we defend democracy with even greater resolve and unity. Our elected leaders—Republicans and Democrats alike—must resist partisan impulses at this dangerous moment.

What's important for Americans to understand is that the loss of democracy doesn't require a military attack or invasion. It can happen by the slow and systematic erosion of democratic norms. Often, the erosion of democracy happens from within when political parties radicalize or seize control of institutions like the judiciary or election apparatus. We have seen this occur in recent years in places such as Hungary under Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who has eroded civil liberties, manipulated national elections, and reshaped the government under his rule since returning to power in 2010 after refusing to concede following an unsuccessful reelection bid in 2002.

It would be naive to think we don't face similar threats to American democracy, when an organized effort has been underway since 2020 to sabotage future American elections.

This plot includes stripping election officials of their power and placing it in the hands of partisan politicians, installing election deniers in key political positions including secretaries of state, exploiting vague and outdated laws such as the Electoral Count Act so the will of the voters can be overturned, and even threatening the lives of poll workers and their families.

Fortunately, there is an emerging bipartisan consensus in Congress that we can do more to protect our elections.

For starters, we should update the Electoral Count Act during this Congress to prevent members of Congress from overturning the results of fair and accurate elections for partisan reasons. Neither a Democratic or Republican vice president should determine the outcome of a presidential election; that's a decision made only by American voters.

But we shouldn't stop there. Congress can go further by passing expanded protections for election officials, poll workers, and their families, and we can finally deliver consistent and necessary funding to states and localities to ensure they have the resources they need to carry out safe and credible elections so that private philanthropy doesn't step in again to fill the gaps, which is what happened in 2020.

Democracy is not guaranteed—it is fragile and ours to lose. Every generation of Americans must tend to it and fight for it when under attack—as well as build a more perfect union with a stronger and more inclusive democracy. Because if history is our guide, once freedom is lost, it is almost impossible to get back.

The Ukrainian people have shown courage and tenacity to the world by standing their ground, fighting for their fellow citizens, and sacrificing their lives for democracy. Their spirit and determination remind us of American soldiers waging a Revolutionary War against a more powerful army, and winning their freedom. We've kept our democracy for nearly 250 years. Let us work together again to strengthen it so that we may remain a shining city on a hill.

Zach Wamp is a former Republican congressman from Tennessee, and Tim Roemer is a former Democratic congressman from Indiana. They are both members of the National Council on Election Integrity and co-chairs of Issue One's ReFormers Caucus.

AMERICA'S

From Page 10

is "evil," Trump wouldn't do it.

Hannity, for once, is right: Putin is evil. And the American right's embrace of this particular brand of evil indicates it isn't just Ukraine's problem.

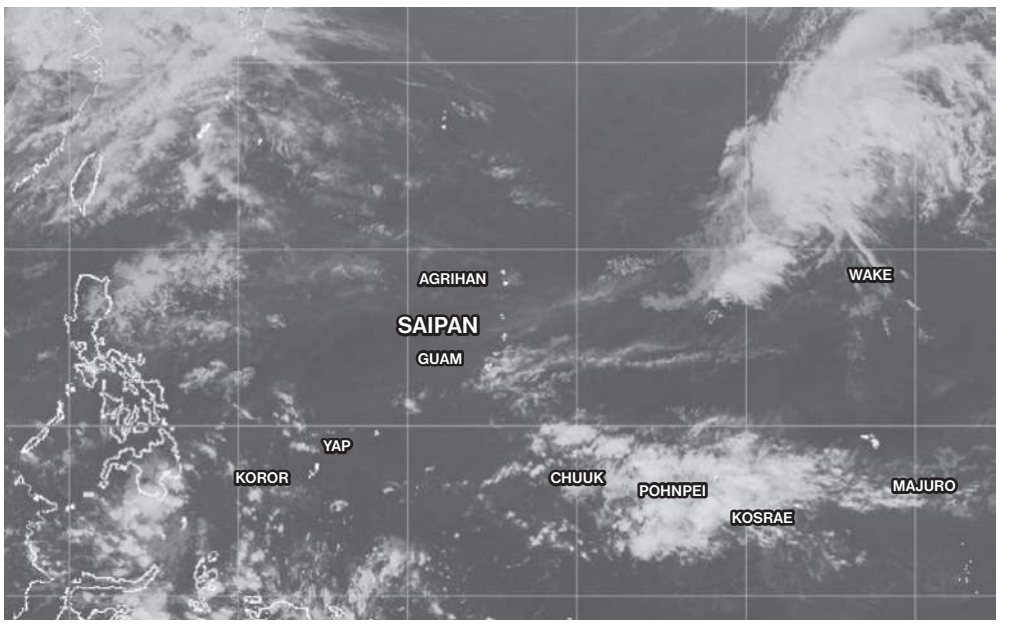
© 2022 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Lows in the upper.
86º / 76º	86º / 75	86º / 78º	87º / 77º	87º / 77º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:04 AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

East-trade winds prevail over the Marianas this morning. A trade-wind disturbance is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	30 / 25 °F
Palau	PM Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	30 / 27 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:22 AM	18:27 PM
Saturday	06:22 AM	18:27 PM
Sunday	06:21 AM	18:27 PM
Monday	06:20 AM	18:27 PM
Tuesday	06:20 AM	18:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	06:19 PM	18:29 PM
Saturday	-	06:58 PM	19:23 PM
Sunday	-	07:37 PM	20:17 PM
Monday	-	08:19 PM	21:14 PM
Tuesday	-	09:03 PM	22:14 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	PM Showers	22 / 15 °F
Beijing	PM Showers	3 / -3 °F
Hong Kong	Cloudy	26 / 20 °F
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	28 / 22 °F
London	Sunny	15 / 6 °F
Los Angeles	Sunny	25 / 12 °F
Manila	PM Thunderstorms	34 / 26 °F
Melbourne	AM Showers	21 / 14 °F
Miami	Mostly Sunny	27 / 24°F
New York	Mostly Sunny	12 / 12 °F
Osaka	Rain	22 /12 °F
Paris	Sunny	14 / 10 °F
Busan	Rain/Wind	15 /16 °F
Rome	Cloudy	17 / 7 °F
Salem	Thunderstorms	22 / 11 °F
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	15 / 9 °F
Seoul	Cloudy	11 / 2 °F
Tokyo	Rain	8 / 6 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	23 / 15 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
01:46 AM	Low Tide	-0.00
08:12 AM	High Tide	1.83
2:10 PM	Low Tide	0.66
7:42 PM	High Tide	1.85

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $234. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-8747 or 235-2440. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 14, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1, 3, 5
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA116	8:00am	8:46am	7
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	2, 4, 7
UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9307	9:00AM	Q2:30PM	4, 7
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

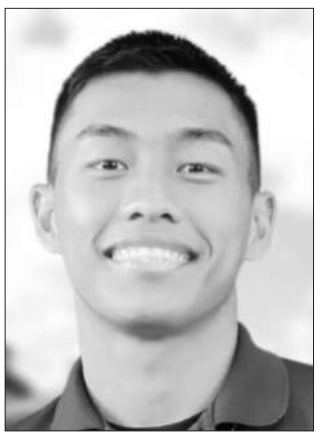
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

MCS student Larry Cruz recognized by College Board National Recognition Program

The National College Board recently recognized Mount Carmel School senior Larry Dean Tenorio Cruz as an awardee for the College Board National Recognition Program. Cruz received the Indigenous Recognition Award and the National Rural and Small Town Recognition Award based on his exemplary examination scores for the PSAT and Advanced Placement courses.

The College Board National Recognition Program is designed to aid underrepresented students who have demonstrated high academic achievement in PSAT/NMSQT, the PSAT 10, or AP Exams. The program is also meant to create pathways for students by awarding them academic honors and connecting them with universities across the United States.

Cruz is a Mount Carmel School senior and the current vice president of the school's ECO Club and a key member of Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club. Throughout his time in Theatre Club, Cruz gained experience in directing, acting, choreography, and artistic design. In 2020, Cruz was a featured director during the Guam International Film Festival for his short film *We Drank Our Tears: Henry Indalecio's Story* through Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club program. Throughout his high school career, Cruz has participated in various extra-curricular activities including ECO Club, Mock Trial, National Honor Society, Red Cross, TED-Ed, Theatre Club, and Vox Knights. In addition to his extensive involvement as a student leader, Cruz is also an honors student, having completed Advanced Placement, or AP, courses, which include AP U.S. History and AP Computer Science Principles. Cruz is currently set to graduate on June 4, 2022, and join the "AlumKnight" community.



Cruz

Presently, Cruz has applied to Northern Marianas College, Seattle University, and the University of Washington. At this time, he is deciding between NMC and Seattle University in pursuit of a degree in nursing. As he prepares for college, Cruz has remained steadfast in his ambition to study nursing; it is his current intention to gain employment at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. as a nurse after graduating with his college degree.

"During my sophomore year of high school I didn't know what I wanted to pursue, but I knew I wanted to give back to my community," Cruz said. "In the last two years, pursuing a degree in nursing became a clear calling for me because of this pandemic and I hope to join the amazing teams available in our healthcare system after earning my degree."

As Cruz reflects on his experience at Mount Carmel School, he said "Looking back, it's crazy to think about how I was supposed to leave MCS and graduate from MHS once I finished middle school here. But after my first two years, I was set on making MCS my home. Alongside the education that I gained from the academically challenging courses I took, I found myself throughout all my work in my extracurriculars. The past four years haven't been easy, but they will always be worth it to me. I think this award really belongs to my family, friends, and teachers—without their tremendous love and support, I wouldn't be the student I am today."

Mount Carmel School's acting president Frances Taimanao commends Cruz on this achievement and shares her own confidence in his continued success. "Larry has always been a student leader that our team can rely on and we are excited for the path he will choose to follow after graduation. Throughout his time here at MCS, Larry has been nothing short of hard-working, dedicated, honest, and resilient and I am certain that any institution he chooses after June will only gain with him as a student," she said. ***(MCS)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com

AMENDED NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER RENOVATION PROJECT**, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-17.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Air Traffic Control Tower Renovation Project for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-004-17"* and submitted no later than **2:00 PM, MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, CPA Administration, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited, repairs and improvements to the Air Traffic Control Tower inclusive of restrooms, kitchens, ceiling, flooring, walls, cab and catwalk, diagonal bracings, antenna supports, air conditioning, ventilation, plumbing, fire, jockey pump systems, electrical equipment and other miscellaneous work on non-damaged components necessary for required repair of damaged components, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY (420) calendar days**.

Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND ($1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (US $250.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority". Bidders should notify CPA immediately if there are issues retrieving the files in the DVD.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the ARFF Classroom at the Saipan Airport Fire Station, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. The pre-bid and site visit are not mandatory. However, it is the bidders' responsibility to familiarize themselves with the project location and conditions. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as face wear a mask at all times while at the airport. For site visits after the pre-bid conference, bidders are to coordinate with Mr. Edward Mendiola, CPA's Deputy Director, at edmendiola@cnmiports.com or telephone number (670) 237-6505.

Bidders attention is called to the fact that this is a renovation project, and the bid is to be lump sum inclusive of all work described in the contract documents including all labor, equipment, materials (including excess waste materials), necessary fittings and accessories. Lump sum work shall include all work on existing concealed elements referenced by the contract documents or required for completion of any other elements specifically refereced in the contract documents.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least fourteen (14) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-27 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: March 10, 2022

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGES 1, 4 AND 5 REPLACEMENT AND ISOLATED SPALL REPAIRS TO PCC PAVEMENT AT GATES 1, 2, 3, 4 AND 5**, SAIPAN, OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-002-20.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Passenger Loading Bridges 1, 4 and 5 Replacement and Isolated Spall Repairs to PCC Pavement at Gates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-002-20"* and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2022**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to replacement of three existing passenger boarding bridges at Gates 1, 4, and 5 with new apron-drive bridges and isolated spall repairs to PCC pavement at Gates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport including all associated work, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract provides that the Contractor shall invoice for labor and materials for passenger boarding bridge replacement at Gate 1 separately from the invoice for passenger boarding bridges replacement at Gates 4 and 5 and spall repairs at Gates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 (which may be invoiced together).

The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY EIGHT (568) calendar days if awarded all three bridges.** Duration may adjust based on funding availability which will determine the number of bridges to be replaced.

Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND ($1,000.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A DVD containing the plans and specification, including the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS ($250.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 a.m., MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022**, at the Saipan Airport Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-29 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: March 2, 2022

COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Passenger Assistance & Safety Sensitive Training

Incident Command System Training

Quality Assurance and Quality Control Training

Routematch Software Training

Rota Turn-key Ceremony

Tinian Turn-Key Ceremony

2021 Christmas Village

MESSAGE FROM THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Despite the ongoing global pandemic in the CNMI, the Transit Authority continuously works diligently to ensure that we continue to support the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force while still providing safe and efficient public transportation services to our community and advocating the benefits of public transportation for economic growth, road congestion improvement, fuel efficiency, and community mobility within our CNMI community.

Our mission at COTA remains constant: to advocate for and provide the people of the CNMI with a full-fledged quality public transportation system that is safe, reliable, accessible, and affordable.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our hard-working team members for their selfless sacrifices and dedication when working the frontlines and behind the scenes during these trying times of this global pandemic. I also would thank our transit riders and partner agencies for our continued partnership and for entrusting us to get you where you need to go safely.

We look forward to 2022 and a slate of new transit projects to keep the CNMI moving forward!

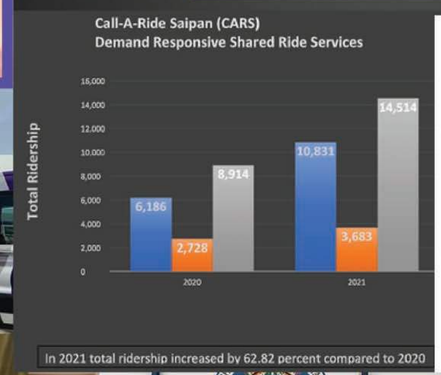
- Alfreda Camacho Maratita
Special Assistant for Public Transportation

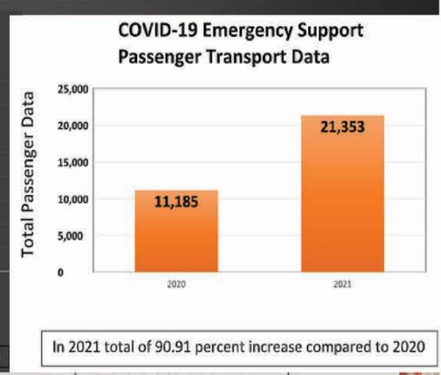
Fitness Friday

2022 International Women's Day

Administrative Building & Maintenance Facility

COVID-19 Operations





PSS CO-OP Transit Passes

Tinian Hot Pepper Festival a refreshing good time

Rain showers couldn't put a damper on festivities at the 18th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on March 11-13 2022, in the Marianas.

The annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority, organized in cooperation with the Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan, kicked off with a soft opening on Friday, March 11, and, despite scattered showers, provided a refreshing good time for residents and visitors throughout the weekend.

The 50K Pika Bike Race was held early Saturday morning with 35 registered bikers and finished without a hitch. As a follow-up to his 2021 first place finish, Joel Buco (01:40:22) again led the pack in the Men's Open Category, and Jully Rose Felipe (02:07:27) earned first place in the Women's Open Category.

Later that day Jessica Cabrera of Tinian repeated her winning form of 2021 by chomping through 100 "donne sali" peppers to top the Female Hot Pepper Eating Contest. The following day Christian Bulanadi of Tinian took the Men's title. The JC Café Pikalicious Burger Eating Contest tested competitors with giant, "donne sali"-laced patties, with Thomas Hoffman placing first. Bernard Lopez served up the tastiest dish in the Estufao Pika (spicy chicken stew) Cooking Contest.

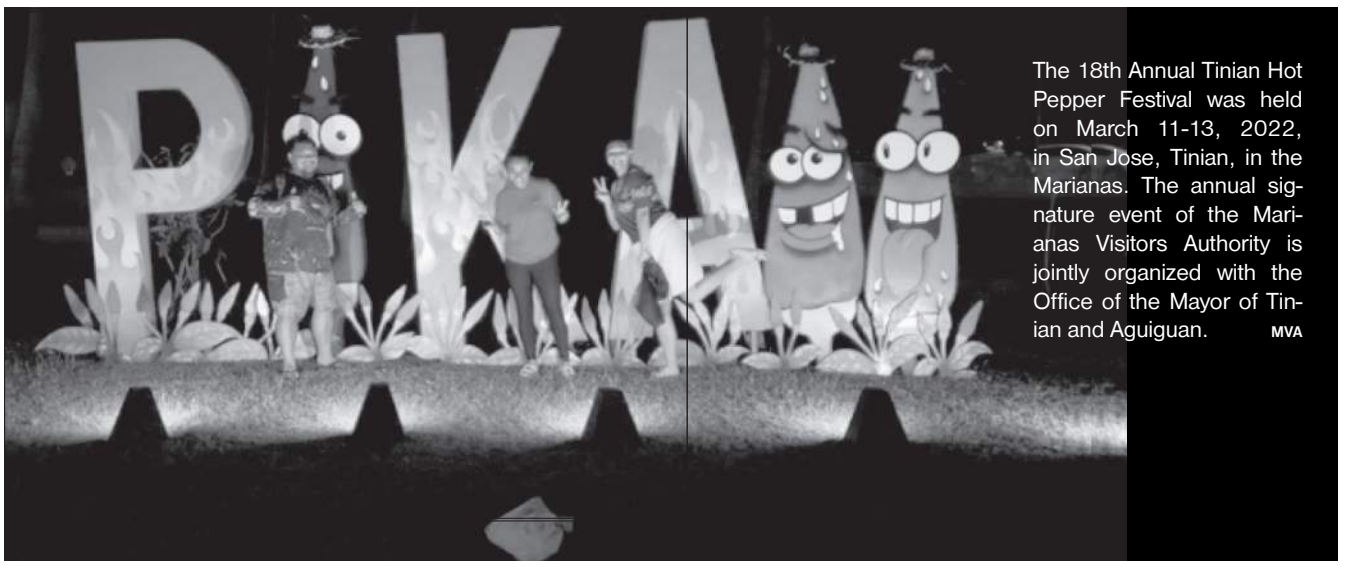
The "Umang" (hermit crab) Race for boys and girls was topped by Tristan Manglona and Jayden Reyes for having the fastest crabs to exit the circle. David Bamba and Carmen Dela Cruz stepped their way to first place in the Cha Cha Dance Competition. For the second year, first place in the Booth Decoration Contest went to Sweetie's Corner.

"Once again, the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival was a great success, and we sincerely thank Mayor Edwin Aldan and his staff in partnering up with the MVA. To all sponsors, volunteers, and visitors, because of you, the MVA is able to put this Pika event together. Without you, we would have not made this event possible," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "Rain or shine, everyone seemed to have had a great time, and we look forward to next year's event."

Exclusive sponsors for this year's festival were Tan-Holdings Corp. and Tan Sui Lin Foundation. Gold sponsors were Bank of Guam and IT&E. Silver sponsors were Triple J Bar K, Tinian Shipping Company, and JC Café, and the Bronze sponsors were McDonald's Saipan and Saipan World Resort. The event was also supported by CNMI Office of the Governor, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp, CNMI COVID-19 Task Force, Tinian Fishermen's Association, JC Café, Bikers Association of Tinian, Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire Emergency & Medical Services, The Super Emerald and Star Marianas Air.

The Tinian Hot Pepper Festival was held at the Fiesta Grounds in San Jose village and is usually held every President's Day weekend in February, although this year's festival was postponed to March due to the spread of the omicron variant. Ferry service and airport shuttle service were also provided during the festival.

For more information on Tinian, visit www.mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***



The 18th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival was held on March 11-13, 2022, in San Jose, Tinian, in the Marianas. The annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority is jointly organized with the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan. MVA

Sweetie's Corner, first place winner in the booth decorating contest, joins nine other food and drink vendors at the 18th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival. MVA

Tinian High School JROTC cadets post colors at the 18th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival opening ceremony on March 11, 2022, in San Jose, Tinian, in the Marianas. MVA

Taotao Taga Tinian Cultural Dancers perform on opening night of the 18th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on March 11, 2022, in San Jose, Tinian. MVA

Tinian & Aguiguan Mayor Edwin Aldan, second right, and his wife hit the dance floor at the 18th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on March 11, 2022, in San Jose, Tinian. MVA

Thirty-five bikers join the 50K Pika Bike Race on March 11, 2022, at the 18th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival in San Jose, Tinian. MVA

David Mediola spikes as Cody Kramer, in black, and a teammate defend during the Beach Vollyeball Contest on March 12, 2022, at the 18th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival in San Jose, Tinian. MVA

FitBeat Dancers work out to the beat on March 12, 2022, at the 18th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival in San Jose, Tinian. MVA

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

SMASH
PING PING PING
KRITCH KRUNCH
HE'S A TRICKY DEVIL, BUT I'LL GET HIM SOONER OR LATER!
APPARENTLY I RATE JUST BELOW BUGS WITH HER!
AND SHE COMPLAINS YOU DONT HELP OUT AROUND THE HOUSE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Mighty trees
5 Corn core
8 Incite
12 DLI doubled
13 Swiss canton
14 Entice
15 Throat clearer
16 Pekoe in an infuser
18 Mutiny
20 Legendary sailor
21 Subject, usually
23 Sch. URL ender
24 Grove planting
28 Sacred chests
31 Hosp. section
32 Spanish snacks
34 Poseidon's home
35 Actress Harper
37 Game that uses infrared light
39 Carrier to Amsterdam
41 Old Italian money
42 Episodic TV show
45 Salsa scoopers
49 Prepping period
51 Galley supply
52 Prado display
53 Lean- — (sheds)
54 "— a Song Go Out of My Heart"
55 Employer
56 "Mayday!"
57 Some July babies

DOWN

1 Actor Epps
2 Rue the run
3 Chicken —
4 Jazz singer Nina
5 Type of attaché
6 Spanish gold
7 Life stories
8 Jackson of "A Touch of Class"
9 Tirade
10 Vicinity
11 Out of play
17 "Sprechen — Deutsch?"
19 Politico Trent
22 Kathmandu's land
24 Set afire
25 "Rocks"
26 Marsh rodents
27 Facility
29 Mauna —
30 Droop
33 Antitoxins
36 Trombone parts
38 Shrink in fear
40 Convened
42 Thick chunk
43 Architect Saarinen
44 Poses
46 Robust
47 Disc-shaped cookie
48 Swift jets
50 Cattle call

Solution time: 21 mins.

■	H	A	▪	▪	I	■	L	O	R	N	A	■
B	O	I	L	E	D	■	A	T	H	E	N	A
L	O	R	E	N	A	■	S	T	O	W	E	D
A	P	B	■	D	R	A	C	O	■	C	M	A
S	L	A	B	■	E	V	A	■	P	A	I	R
S	A	G	A	N	■	A	L	S	O	R	A	N
■	■	■	L	E	A	■	A	I	L	■	■	■
C	A	R	M	E	L	A	■	B	E	T	A	S
C	T	I	S	■	B	L	▪	■	S	I	K	H
S	T	A	■	C	A	B	O	T	■	N	I	E
M	I	L	▪	O	N	■	P	I	C	K	M	E
C	C	T	O	P	I	■	I	N	D	E	B	T
■	S	O	N	Y	A	■	C	A	I	R	O	■

Last Friday's Answer 03/21

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			17				
18				19		■	20					
■	■	■	21			22	■	23			■	■
24	25	26					27	■	28		29	30
31			■	32				33	■	34		
35			36	■	37				38			
■	■	39		40	■	41				■	■	■
42	43				44	■	45			46	47	48
49						50		■	51			
52				■	53				54			
55				■	56				57			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jace Norman, 22; Matthew Broderick, 60; Rosie O'Donnell, 60; Gary Oldman, 64.

Happy Birthday: Pay attention to detail. Be the driving force behind the changes you want to incorporate into your life this year. Refuse to let your emotions decide your fate when common sense and a practical approach to situations will gain approval and lead to a better outcome. Keeping your finger on the pulse will result in opportunity and freedom. Your numbers are 8, 13, 21, 25, 33, 39, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep an open mind, but don't turn into a follower. Continue to be the pioneer, the one who trusts and believes that you can handle whatever comes your way. Challenge yourself, and you'll surpass your expectations. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Mistakes are likely if you make a change under emotional circumstances. Consider the consequences, and put your energy into taking care of your responsibilities. A clean slate will help you get a clear picture of what's possible. Avoid vulnerability. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take note of what's happening around you. Don't make decisions based on assumptions. Be aware of people offering a sugarcoated scenario. Look inward and consider what you can do to improve your life, position and physical well-being. Keep the peace. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Avoid unnecessary expenditures and impulsive acts. Put more into fine-tuning what you are trying to achieve. Go with the flow, and use your intelligence to get what you want. A partnership will offer more than anticipated. Offer time and services, not cash. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Ask questions if you feel uncertain or confused. An emotional situation will lead to a wrong decision. Bide your time, and put your energy into educational pursuits, personal growth and doing what will bring the highest return. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* It's up to you to bring about change if you aren't happy with the way things are going. Don't wait around for someone to outmaneuver you. Follow your intuition, and surround yourself with people who are consistent and share your ambitions. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Safeguard your cash, and refuse to make a move based on what someone else does. A healthy routine that will keep you fit and give you the strength and confidence to do the things that bring you joy is encouraged. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Follow the path that intrigues you, not the one everyone else takes. Don't let old ways hold you back when you want to experience what life has to offer. Incorporate your ideas and desires into your everyday routine, and happiness will prevail. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Ask an expert for advice, not someone trying to take advantage of you. A false lead can set you back financially if you don't research before getting involved in a scheme. Avoid over-the-top individuals. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Put your money to work for you. Invest in something that will help you advance. An opportunity to use your skills uniquely will pay off. A change at home or work will tax a meaningful relationship. Nurture what's important. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Keep your thoughts and intentions to yourself. Don't let a change someone makes alter your plans. Listen attentively, and you will find out valuable information. Avoid situations that are a risk to your health or emotional well-being. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Your position is better than you think. Keep a poker face, and you'll tap-dance your way to a better future. Reach out to someone who owes you or has skills you can use to your advantage. Pay attention to investments. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, kind and helpful. You are energetic and impulsive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9			4	6	2		
						8		3
2	1		5	8	7			
1		5				4		
9		2		1		6		8
		4				5		7
			6	3	8		4	9
3		7						
		9	7	2			8	

Difficulty Level ★ 3/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

6	8	5	9	1	3	2	7	4
1	9	7	6	2	4	5	8	3
3	2	4	8	7	5	6	1	9
4	6	3	2	5	8	1	9	7
5	1	2	4	9	7	8	3	6
9	7	8	1	3	6	4	5	2
2	5	1	7	4	9	3	6	8
7	4	6	3	8	1	9	2	5
8	3	9	5	6	2	7	4	1

Difficulty Level ★★★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

PERFUME BRANDS **Solution: 8 letters**

F	M	S	E	U	Q	C	A	J	I	M	M	Y	A	Y
R	E	O	B	O	T	T	E	G	A	A	M	R	E	R
Y	E	R	S	E	N	A	G	B	R	R	U	E	C	R
H	M	I	R	C	N	I	U	C	C	A	G	I	A	E
P	R	C	C	A	H	L	A	I	L	L	L	T	S	B
O	E	M	A	R	G	I	E	L	A	P	E	A	R	R
S	H	V	C	A	E	A	N	R	R	H	R	W	E	U
O	T	R	R	A	O	M	M	O	I	E	E	D	V	B
L	O	I	C	O	R	A	E	O	N	S	U	L	N	H
I	I	C	H	D	N	T	S	Y	S	A	A	G	V	A
H	B	C	A	I	C	H	I	V	L	C	E	I	E	L
P	I	I	N	O	Y	S	L	E	O	O	O	C	N	S
R	Y	N	E	R	U	A	L	S	R	A	L	C	E	T
Y	G	O	L	O	A	E	T	U	C	C	H	U	T	O
E	L	L	I	A	C	E	T	N	A	H	C	G	A	N

© 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 3/21

Armani, Biotherm, Bottega, Bulgari, Burberry, Cartier, Chanel, Chantecaille, Chloé, Choo, Clarins, Coach, Cute, Dior, Ferragamo, Gucci, Guerlain, Halston, Jacques, Jean, Jimmy, Lacoste, Lauder, Laura, Lauren, Lise, Marc, Margiela, Mercier, Moschino, Mugler, Philosophy, Ralph, Ricci, Rich, Saint, Secret, Teaology, Veneta, Versace, Watier, YSL, Yves

Last Friday's Answer: Television

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Matson donates more than $10K to UOG Foundation

The University of Guam Endowment Foundation recognized Matson Navigation Co. on Feb. 28 for the company's donations to the foundation in 2021 totaling $10,625. The funds will support the university's students and various programs, in particular the Isla Center for the Arts, the School of Business and Public Administration, and the Guam Green Growth initiative facilitated by the Center for Island Sustainability.

A portion of the donation will also support the Matson Empowerment Scholarship—which Matson created through UOGEF—to promote greater diversity in the next generation of business leaders. Two $2,500 scholarships will be awarded in the 2022– 2023 academic year.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

From left, Camilo Lorenzo, account executive, Matson; Bernadette "Bernie" Valencia, vice president and general manager for Guam and Micronesia, Matson; Wilfred P. Leon Guerrero, UOG Endowment Foundation chairman and UOG president emeritus; Patrick Bulaon, operations manager, Matson; Katrina Perez, executive director, UOGEF; and Stephen Gatewood, operations support, Matson.

"The UOG Endowment Foundation is honored to accept these donations from Matson," said Katrina Perez, executive director of UOGEF. "We are humbled by the continued philanthropic backing of our local businesses towards the various UOG scholarships and programs. When you transform a Triton, you help transform the world."

Bernadette Valencia, president and general manager of Matson for Guam and Micronesia, has taken advantage of several opportunities to support the university, including her acceptance last month of a six-year appointment to serve on the University of Guam Board of Regents.

For any companies or individuals interested in donating to support the University of Guam, contact the University of Guam Endowment Foundation at (671) 735-2957 or info@uogendowment.org, or visit https://give.uog.edu for more information. ***(UOG)***

8th Women's Summit on March 29

The 8th Annual CNMI Women's Summit will be held on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 from 8:30am to 3pm, at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The summit, sponsored yearly by the CNMI Women's Association, is co-sponsored by the Women's Affairs Office, under the Office of the Governor, and in collaboration with our key community and network partners.

This year's theme, "Gender Equality: Key to Sustainable Development," also highlights this year's national theme, "Break the Bias," and was proclaimed on March 1, 2022 at the proclamation signing held at the Governor's Office.

This year's lineup of panelists and programs at the summit include discussions and presentations on topics that include the Summary of SDG# 5, on Women & Culture, Women & Health, and Women & Peace: Leading the Conversation on Militarization in the CNMI, break out sessions to work on targets & objective, report on targets and objectives and implementation of targets & objective identified.

Interested attendees are encouraged to register at: https://forms.gle/R2ZMVFC999kGJAJQ8

For more information regarding the summit, email cwadoiginoef@gmail.com or call (233- 8978/9411. ***(PR)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NAME OF EMPLOYER: Dynamic Core Group, Inc. dba Shirley's Coffee Shop
THE POSITION: Cook
JOB DESCRIPTION: Inspect and clean food preparation areas, such as equipment and work surfaces, or serving areas to ensure safe and sanitary food-handling practices; Ensure freshness of food and ingredients by checking for quality, keeping track of old and new items, and rotating stock; Ensure food is stored and cooked at correct temperature by regulating temperature of ovens, broilers, grills, and roasters; Season and cook food according to recipes or personal judgment and experience; Turn or stir foods to ensure even cooking; Observe and test foods to determine if they have been cooked sufficiently, using methods such as tasting, smelling, or piercing them with utensils; Portion, arrange, and garnish food, and serve food to waiters or patrons; Weigh, measure, and mix ingredients according to recipes or personal judgment, using various kitchen utensils and equipment; Bake, roast, broil, and steam meats, fish, vegetables, and other foods; Wash, peel, cut, and seed fruits and vegetables to prepare them for consumption; Coordinate and supervise work of kitchen staff; Estimate expected food consumption, requisition or purchase supplies, or procure food from storage; Substitute for or assist other cooks during emergencies or rush periods; Consult with supervisory staff to plan menus, taking into consideration factors, such as costs and special event needs; Carve and trim meats such as beef, veal, ham, pork, and lamb for hot or cold service, or for sandwiches; Keep records and accounts; and Plan and price menu items.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

EDUCATION: Must be at least High School Graduate
EXPERIENCE: Must have at least twenty-four (24) months of relevant work experience as a Cook
JOB SITE: Hagoi Road, Talaya Avenue, Susupe, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

HOW TO APPLY: Submit or mail your application letter, together with a comprehensive resume, and supporting credentials including, but are not limited to, employment certificates to:

EDGARDO S. MACARIO
General Manager
DYNAMIC CORE GROUP, INC. DBA SHIRLEY'S COFFEE SHOP

Office Address: Hagoi Road, Talaya Avenue, Susupe
Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 504580, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: puy_macario@shirleyscoffeeshopsaipan.com
Telephone Number: 1(670) 235-5379

Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office

Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 •Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 • Facsimile: (670) 236-9702 • Website: www.NMIjudiciary.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)
INFORMATION SYSTEMS ASSISTANT
Announcement # JVA22-022

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the general supervision of Chief Justice and/or the Director of Court or his/her designee and under the direct supervision of the Systems Administrator. The candidate is expected to perform the following Duties and Responsibilities:

- Responsible for monitoring the Information Systems Unit (ISU) help desk and coordinating activity with ISU personnel;
- Track ISU's tasks and projects by maintaining logs, updating schedules, and providing verbal or written reports;
- Assist with project research and in drafting the scope of work or related procurement documents for projects under the ISU;
- Create, update, input, and maintain records and databases relevant to procurement, personnel, time-keeping, accounting, and other administrative items relevant to the ISU;
- Assist with the drafting of physical and digital templates, forms and documents for use in meetings, administrative procedures, procurement, human resources, accounting, time-keeping, statistics, data, and standards as it relates to the ISU;
- Assists in conducting the physical inventory and surveying of court assets under the ISU;
- Responsible for compiling and monitoring a list of office equipment, items, and inventory supplies purchased under the ISU and order replacement supplies, as needed;
- Foster and maintain professional network with internal and external partners and maintain registry of contacts information as it relates to the ISU;
- Provide standard administrative support for designated projects under the ISU as assigned by the Systems Administrator or his/her designee;
- Provide technical support for routine end-user issues through established protocols or troubleshooting and escalate as necessary;
- Provide guidance and explain policies and procedures to end-users;
- Utilize and maintain knowledge bases, white papers, FAQs, and vendor documentation; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The ARPA Information Systems Assistant should have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must also satisfy one of the following:

(1) Have an associate's degree from a nationally accredited college or university in liberal arts, business administration, business management, or other appropriate field and have one year of experience in a secretarial, human resource, administrative support or other related role; or
(2) Have three years of experience in a secretarial, human resource, administrative support or other related role or any combination of education and/or experience in a related field or position.

Bachelor's degree is preferred and relevant certifications will be an advantage.
Must have a solid understanding of IT systems, networking and computer software.
Must have the ability to multi-task and work in a fast-paced environment.
Must have strong organizational skills.
Must be a logical problem solver who can operate under constraints.

Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment. "Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules I-V of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308.)

Education completed in foreign colleges or universities may be used to meet the job qualification requirements if the applicant can show that foreign education is comparable to education received in accredited educational institutions in the United States.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide such evidence when applying for Judiciary jobs. Education received in foreign colleges or universities will be considered if the candidate submits an evaluation of the coursework from: (a) an accredited U.S. college or university; or (b) a private professional organization specializing in interpretation of foreign educational credentials.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is funded by the ARPA and is temporary in nature. This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. The salary range will be $23,000 - $25,000 per annum.

INTERESTED PERSONS PERSONS Application forms are available at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on weekends and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

NMI Judiciary
Human Resources
Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9818 I Cell. (670) 783-8592 I Fax. (670) 236-9702
hr.judiciary@NMIjudiciary.com

This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.nmijudiciary.com

This position is supported, in whole or in part, by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, CNMI award number CNMI22004, awarded to the CNMI Judiciary by the CNMI Department of Finance.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

[1]The following organizations evaluate foreign educational credentials for employment and other purposes. All operate on a fee based on the extent of the education to be evaluated; applicants shall bear the cost of evaluation.
(a) Credentials Evaluation Service P.O. Box 24679 Los Angeles, CA 90024
(b) Education Equivalency Evaluation World Education Services P.O. Box 745 Old Chelsea Station New York, NY 10011
(c) Education Credential Evaluators, Inc. P.O. Box 17499 Milwaukee, WI 53217
(d) International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. 914 Pickett Lane Newark, DE 19711
(e) Foundation for International Services, Inc. P.O. Box 230278 Portland, OR 97223.
While the Judiciary offer these addresses as information to applicants who request assistance in obtaining an evaluation of foreign education, these services are not preferred over others which may exist.

Business

Biden's China 'pivot' complicated by Russia's war in Ukraine

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden set out to finally complete the "pivot to Asia," a long sought adjustment of U.S. foreign policy to better reflect the rise of America's most significant military and economic competitor: China.

But Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine has made that vexing move even more complicated. China's government has vacillated between full embrace and more measured responses as Russian President Vladimir Putin prosecutes his war, making the decisions for Biden far more layered.

"It's difficult. It's expensive," Kurt Campbell, the coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs on the White House National Security Council, said during a recent forum of maintaining a high-level U.S. focus in two regions. "But it's also essential, and I believe we're entering a period where that's what will be required of the United States and of this generation of Americans."

AP
President Joe Biden meets virtually with Chinese President Xi Jinping from the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, on Nov. 15, 2021.

That leaves the Biden administration needing to focus East and West at the same time, balancing not simply economic imperatives but military ones as well.

The president has been deeply invested in rallying NATO and Western allies to respond to Russia with crippling sanctions, supplying an overmatched Ukraine military with $2 billion in military assistance—including $800 million in new aid announced Wednesday—and addressing a growing humanitarian crisis.

Eastern flank NATO allies, including Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania, have made clear to the Biden administration that they want the U.S. to increase its military presence in the region and do more to address the worst humanitarian crisis in Europe since World War II. More than 3 million Ukrainian refugees have fled their country in recent weeks.

Though the war in Ukraine has dominated Biden's focus of late, White House officials insist they haven't lost sight of China—and are watching intently to see how Xi Jinping decides to play his hand.

In recent months, Biden has announced the sale of nuclear submarines to Australia and raised the profile of the Indo-Pacific security dialogue known as the Quad (Australia, India, Japan and the United States). He's also called out China for military provocations against Taiwan, human rights abuses against ethnic minorities and efforts to squelch pro-democracy advocates in Hong Kong.

Biden's national security team was somewhat surprised that Pacific partners—Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore and South Korea—moved so quickly to hit Russia with sanctions following the invasion, according to a U.S. official familiar with the administration's thinking.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to talk about private discussions, said there was a recognition among the Pacific allies that Beijing is watching how the world responds to Russia as China calculates how aggressive it can be with its smaller neighbors in the region. In backing sanctions, the Pacific nations were trying to send a message to Xi as well as Putin, the official added.

From the first days of his presidency, Biden has said the aims of his China policy are to find ways to cooperate with Beijing on issues of mutual interest—such as stopping North Korea from developing nuclear weapons and coaxing Tehran to return to the Iran nuclear deal with the U.S., China, Russia and other world powers—and to avoid confrontation.

Fed begins inflation fight with key rate hike, more to come

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve launched a high-risk effort Wednesday to tame the worst inflation since the early 1980s, raising its benchmark short-term interest rate and signaling up to six additional rate hikes this year.

The Fed's quarter-point hike in its key rate, which it had pinned near zero since the pandemic recession struck two years ago, marks the start of its effort to curb the high inflation that followed the recovery from the recession. The rate hikes will eventually mean higher loan rates for many consumers and businesses.

The central bank, in a policy statement, along with quarterly projections and remarks by Chair Jerome Powell at a news conference, pointed to a somewhat more aggressive approach to rate hikes than many analysts had expected.

The projections showed that seven of the central bank's 16 policymakers favor at least one half-point rate hike this year, suggesting that such a large increase "is a live possibility," said Michael Feroli, an economist at JPMorgan Chase.

At his news conference, Powell stressed his confidence that the economy is strong enough to withstand higher interest rates. But he also made clear that the Fed is focused on doing whatever it takes to reduce inflation, over time, to its 2% annual target. Otherwise, Powell warned, the economy might not sustain its recovery from the pandemic recession.

"We're acutely aware of the need to restore price stability," the Fed chair said. "In fact, it's a precondition for achieving the kind of labor market that we want. You can't have maximum employment for any sustained period without price stability."

The Fed also released a set of quarterly economic projections Wednesday that underscored the potential for extended interest rate increases in the months ahead. Seven hikes would raise its short-term rate to between 1.75% and 2% at the end of 2022. Fed officials also forecast four more rate increases in 2023, which would boost its benchmark rate to 2.8%.

US expels another Chinese phone carrier on security grounds

BEIJING (AP)—Washington has expelled another state-owned Chinese phone carrier from the U.S. market over national security concerns amid rising tension with Beijing.

The Federal Communications Commission revoked authorization for Pacific Networks Corp. to provide domestic and international service under an order issued Wednesday.

The U.S. government is reducing Chinese access to American markets and investment over possible spying and Beijing's military development.

The FCC cited "significant national security and law enforcement risks" that Pacific Networks could monitor or disrupt U.S. communications. It said there were no steps that could eliminate those risks while the company operated in the United States.

President Joe Biden has extended efforts begun under his predecessor, Donald Trump, to limit access to U.S. technology, investment and markets for Chinese companies due to concern they are security risks or helping military development.

In October, a unit of China Telecom Ltd., one of China's three main state-owned carriers, was expelled by the FCC from the U.S. market on similar grounds.

The FCC said in 2019 it planned to revoke licenses granted two decades earlier to China Telecom and another state-owned carrier, China Unicom Ltd. It rejected a license application by the third carrier, China Mobile Ltd.

The FCC also cited unspecified "conduct and representations" by Pacific Networks to regulators and Congress that "demonstrate a lack of trustworthiness and reliability."

Pacific Networks owns an American company, ComNet (USA) LLC, which provides international service, calling cards and global SIM cards, as well as network management, business phone systems and website services, according to a U.S. Senate report in 2020.

The companies ultimately are owned by the Chinese Cabinet's main holding company, CITIC Group, which "may be able to access U.S. customer records," said the report by the Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

Study: SUVs, pickups more likely to hit walkers than cars

DETROIT (AP)—Drivers of bigger vehicles such as pickup trucks and SUVs are more likely to hit pedestrians while making turns than drivers of cars, according to a new study.

The research released Thursday by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety points to the increasing popularity of larger vehicles as a possible factor in rising pedestrian deaths on U.S. roads. The authors also questioned whether wider pillars holding up roofs of the larger vehicles make it harder for drivers to spot people walking near the corners of vehicles.

"The link between these vehicle types and certain common pedestrian crashes points to another way that the increase in SUVs on the roads might be changing the crash picture," said Jessica Cicchino, a study author and vice president of research for the institute.

Although the study mentioned previous research showing blind spots caused by the "A-pillars" between the windshield and the cabin, the authors said more study is needed to link the blind spots to the increased deaths.

In 2020, the last year for which complete statistics are available, 6,519 pedestrians were killed in the U.S., according to government data. That's up 59% since 2009, and a 4% increase from 2019, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said.

Over the same time period, SUV and pickup truck sales have skyrocketed. In 2009, pickup trucks, SUVs and vans accounted for 47% of all U.S. new vehicle sales, according to Motorintelligence.com. Last year, light trucks were more than three-quarters of new vehicle sales.

Not all SUVs and pickup trucks have the blind spots, though. Compact SUVs, for instance, are now the largest part of the U.S. market.

The study also found that the larger vehicles were more likely than cars to be involved in crashes where pedestrians were standing, walking or running near the edge of the road and away from intersections.

Researchers studied federal crash statistics in which pedestrians were killed, as well as all pedestrian crashes reported to police in North Carolina from 2010 through 2018.

Nation

US grew wealthier, better educated in 2nd half of 2010s

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The U.S. grew wealthier, better educated, less impoverished and less transient during the second half of the last decade, according to data released Thursday by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Median household income for the nation, which had been almost $54,000 from 2011 to 2015, rose to almost $65,000 during the 2016 to 2020 period, which was the final stretch of the longest expansion in the history of U.S. business cycles, according to American Community Survey 5-year estimates.

With the exception of Colorado, the states with the biggest gains in household income were primarily on the coasts. The Rocky Mountain state joined the District of Columbia, California, Massachusetts and Washington with household jumps ranging from $15,000 to $20,000. The smallest gains, of $6,000 or less, were in Alaska, Louisiana and Puerto Rico.

AP

The luxury, residential skyscraper buildings of "Billionaire's Row" in Manhattan are visible from Central Park in New York City, Feb. 20, 2022.

The data released Thursday capture the second half of a decadelong expansion in the U.S. economy that followed the Great Recession. The expansion ended in spring 2020 as the coronavirus started spreading throughout the U.S., forcing businesses to close and workers to be laid off. The data captured only a small part of the initial impact from the pandemic, according to the Census Bureau.

The nation's poverty rate dropped significantly in the last half of the decade, going from 15.5% in the 2011 to 2015 period, in the aftermath of the Great Recession, to 12.8% in the 2016 to 2020 period. With the exception of Alaska, where its change wasn't statistically significant, poverty decreased in 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Along with the increase in household income and decline in poverty, home sizes got bigger. The number of owner-occupied homes with at least four bedrooms jumped from 29.7% to 31.3%

People were slightly less mobile in the last half of the 2010s, with 86.2% staying in the same home in the 2016 to 2020 period, compared to 85.1% in the 2011 to 2015 span. Young adults, who tend to move more than any age group, also slowed down their mobility, with 76.4% of people between ages 25 and 34 staying put compared to 75% between 2011 and 2015. Demographers say overall mobility in the U.S. has declined in recent years because housing construction hasn't kept pace with population growth, and the increase in the debt people carry makes moving more difficult.

ACROSS THE NATION

Trial resuming for 4 men accused of Michigan governor plot

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP)—The trial of four men charged with planning to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is resuming after a three-day break because of a COVID-19 case. U.S. District Judge Robert Jonker said testimony will pick up again Thursday. The trial was suspended this week because the virus had struck a key participant in the case. There have been "no further complications," the judge said Wednesday. Jonker didn't disclose the name of the person who tested positive for COVID-19 or their role. Masks are optional for everyone in court. Only one prosecutor and one juror wore a mask last week.

Man pleads guilty to taking 2 baby bears from their den

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A Northern California man who admitted to taking two bear cubs from their den and notified officials after he was unable to care for them pleaded guilty to possession of a prohibited species, wildlife officials said. Cody Dylon Setzer, 29, and a co-worker who has not been identified and cooperated with authorities took the month-old bears from their den in a tree that had fallen across a forest road, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife said Tuesday. Setzer contacted wildlife officers on March 9, 2019, and told them he had found the baby bears along Highway 263 north of Yreka in Siskiyou County, the department said. But wildlife officers became suspicious of his story after they went out to the site and found no bear tracks or habitat.

Violence against Asians decried on spa shootings anniversary

ATLANTA (AP)—A year after the fatal shootings at three Georgia massage businesses, crowds gathered at rallies across the country Wednesday to remember the victims and denounce anti-Asian violence that has risen sharply in recent years. Six women of Asian descent were among the eight people killed in and near Atlanta on March 16, 2021. The slayings contributed to fear and anger among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and motivated many to join the fight against the rising hostility. At the Atlanta Asian Justice rally, which drew some 100 people, speakers railed against the stereotypes of Asian women as either docile or exotic and said those harmful perceptions contribute to the violence. "Being an Asian woman, you are hypersensitive to the fetishization that occurs. It just reminds me that there's so much work to be done," said Jennifer Fero, a school administrator of Korean descent who attended the rally.

Video: California man screams 'I can't breathe' before death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Southern California man died nearly two years ago as he screamed "I can't breathe" while multiple officers restrained him as they tried to take a blood sample, according to records and a video. Edward Bronstein, 38, was taken into custody by California Highway Patrol officers on March 31, 2020, following a traffic stop. Bronstein died less than two months before George Floyd was killed by police in Minneapolis as he, too, repeatedly told officers "I can't breathe." A nearly 18-minute video, taken by a CHP sergeant at the Altadena station, was released Tuesday after a judge's order to make it public. Bronstein's family has filed a federal lawsuit against the officers, alleging excessive force and a violation of civil rights. The family is also calling for the officers to be criminally charged by the Los Angeles County district attorney. The LA County coroner's office ruled Bronstein's cause of death as "acute methamphetamine intoxication during restraint by law enforcement." A copy of the autopsy report was not immediately available.

9 dead in crash involving U. of the Southwest golf teams

HOBBS, N.M. (AP)—Authorities are trying to determine why a pickup truck crossed into the opposite lane on a darkened, two-lane West Texas highway before colliding head-on with a van, killing nine people including a 13-year-old boy in a fiery crash.

Six of the dead were New Mexico university students and a coach returning from a golf tournament. Also killed in Tuesday evening's crash were University of the Southwest students from Portugal and Mexico while two Canadian students were hospitalized in critical condition.

The National Transportation Safety Board was sending an investigative team to the crash site in Texas' Andrews County, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) east of the New Mexico state line.

The golf team was traveling in a 2017 Ford Transit van that was towing a box trailer when it collided with the truck, and both vehicles burst into flames, according to NTSB spokesman Eric Weiss.

He said the vehicles collided on a two-lane asphalt highway where the speed limit is 75 mph (120 kph), though investigators have not yet determined how fast either vehicle was traveling.

The Texas Department of Public Safety identified the deceased as: Golf coach Tyler James, 26, of Hobbs, New Mexico; and players Mauricio Sanchez, 19, of Mexico; Travis Garcia, 19, of Pleasanton, Texas; Jackson Zinn, 22, of Westminster, Colorado; Karisa Raines, 21, of Fort Stockton, Texas; Laci Stone, 18, of Nocona, Texas; and Tiago Sousa, 18, of Portugal.

AP

The damage bus sits on the side of the road at the scene of a fatal car wreck early Wednesday, March 16, 2022 half of a mile north of State Highway 115 on Farm-to-Market Road 1788 in Andrews County, Texas.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

(RE-ANNOUNCEMENT)
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22-046

Opening Date: March 14, 2022
Closing Date: UNTIL FILLED

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Assistant**
DEPARTMENT:	**Tinian Administration**
LOCATION:	**Tinian, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 to $22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Tinian Resident Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Power Division.

Duties:

- The Trades Assistant assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Assist with fuel delivery and fuel transfer for power plant;
- Reports on fuel status and power generation data;
- Assists with meter readings and customer meter connections, disconnections and reconnections;
- Assist with the customer meter inspections;
- Assists with power technical assistance- monitors and inspects contractor for power installations and projects.
- Responding to customer calls.
- Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing obstacles.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing/Certification:
- Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

(RE-ANNOUNCEMENT)
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22-037

Opening Date: March 14, 2022
Closing Date: March 28, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	**Fiscal Analyst**
DEPARTMENT:	**CFO/Accounting**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$37,756.00 - $50,970.00 per annum, Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of CFO/Accounting Division.

Duties:

- The Fiscal Analyst may lead and/or supervise staff to include prioritizing and assigning work.
- Conducting performance evaluations.
- Ensuring staff is trained.
- Ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures.
- Maintaining a healthy and safe working environment.
- Making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Reviews, accounts for, and prepares various financial data such as: reconciling journal entries; accounts receivable aging, summary billing, accounting accruals, recording fixed asset costs or depreciation, calculating and posting payments, adjustments or allotments; and/or accounts payable invoice payments.
- May provide guidance, coordination and/or journal entries during account closing periods.
- Performs analysis, verifies fiscal data, and prepares various management reports.
- Provided inventory monitoring and status reports; reviews purchase order status, vendor statements, and performs quality checks for verification of services or materials received.
- Provides analytical support to internal and external customers and stakeholders.
- Reviews documents and provides guidance in completion of forms; responds to inquiries or issues; researches and provides information on processes and procedures.
- Assists with annual audits by preparing schedules, repots and providing technical support.
- May provide supervision or coordination of physical inventory processes; reconciliation of inventory balances in preparation for financial reporting; and/or monitoring vehicle maintenance schedules and approving vehicle repairs and maintenance.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or directly related field and 2 years of fiscal experience related to area of assignment.
Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances. Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); generally accepted accounting principles; financial analysis principles and techniques; advanced mathematical concepts; research methods; customer service principles; modern office technology.
Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and other applicable standards. Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Providing guidance and leading work activities (based on assignment); Prioritizing activities and meeting deadlines; Preparing financial information, adjustments and entries related to general ledger; Researching, compiling, calculating and reconciling data and information; Researching technical issues, solving problems and providing solutions; Monitoring and maintaining fiscal account information and reporting; Reconciling data, preparing adjustments and posting account and journal entries; Providing attention to accuracy and detail; Preparing reports, correspondence and related fiscal documentation; Providing customer services; Providing technical guidance related to financial systems; Maintaining databases and financial records; Assisting with audits, inventory processes and/or equipment maintenance schedules; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org.

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP22-OPD-42200085

SUBMISSION DATE: April 11, 2022 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL OF ARCHITECT AND/ OR ENGINEERING SERVICES –CULTURAL EVENT CENTER FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG., GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB MAY BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MR. KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG,** VIA E-MAIL AT kodep.uludong@opd.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS DAY, MARCH 25, 2022.** ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ A. KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, OPD

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID

AIR CONDITIONING PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND PORT OF SAIPAN PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-22

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for Commercial Air-Conditioning Units Preventive Maintenance Service and Repairs at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and Port of Saipan. Bidders shall take into consideration all charges associated with this procurement before finalizing their bid price.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning March 11, 2022, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport, upon a non-refundable payment of $100.00 in cash, cashier's check, or by credit cards. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the Bid Package. All responses to this IFB shall take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged the bidder awarded for this project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m., March 29, 2022 at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building. The purpose of this conference is to allow potential bidders an opportunity to present questions and obtain clarification relative to any facet of this solicitation. While attendance at this conference will not be a prerequisite to submitting bid, bidders who intend to submit a bid are encouraged to attend. Any site visit may be coordinated with Dennis Cruz and Sandy Camacho of the CPA by calling telephone numbers (670)237-6596-(Dennis) and (670)237-6507-(Sandy). Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing through the CPA Procurement Officer via email at atudela@cnmiports.com on or before close of business, April 05, 2022.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for Air-Conditioning Preventive Maintenance Service and Repairs, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport & Port of Saipan/IFB-003-22". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Local Time, April 11, 2022, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Bids will be opened at 2:30 p.m., April 11, 2022 and publicly announced at the CPA Procurement Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport. Bidders are welcome to attend the bid opening. Bids submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any bids received after the bid submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation for Bids; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the bid would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Invitation for Bid shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

March 07, 2022
DATE

World

Russian attacks batter Ukraine as Putin warns of 'traitors'

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—A Russian airstrike ripped apart a theater where hundreds of people have been living in the besieged city of Mariupol, Ukrainian officials said, as Russian President Vladimir Putin called for a "self-purification" to rid his country of anyone who questions his invasion.

The bombardment Wednesday of the theater, which had become a makeshift shelter as combat tore across the port city over the past three weeks and made thousands homeless, left many people buried in the burning rubble, Ukraine's foreign ministry said in a statement. There was no immediate word on how many people were killed or injured.

■■■

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy summoned memories of Pearl Harbor and the Sept. 11 terror attacks Wednesday in an impassioned live-video plea to Congress to send more help for Ukraine's fight against Russia. Lawmakers stood and cheered, and President Joe Biden later announced the U.S. is sending more anti-aircraft, anti-armor weapons and drones.

Biden also declared that Russian President Vladimir Putin is a war criminal—his strongest condemnation yet—the day after the Senate unanimously asked for international investigations of Putin for war crimes in Ukraine.

In a moment of high drama at the Capitol, Zelenskyy livestreamed his speech to a rapt audience of lawmakers on a giant screen, acknowledging from the start that the no-fly zone he has repeatedly sought to "close the sky" to airstrikes on his country may not happen. Instead, Zelenskyy pleaded for other military aid and more drastic economic sanctions to stop the Russian assault with the fate of his country at stake.

■■■

At least as recently as Monday, the pavement in front of and behind the once-elegant theater was marked with huge white letters spelling out "CHILDREN" in Russian, according to images released by the Maxar space technology company.

"My heart breaks from what Russia is doing to our people," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Wednesday night, hours after he delivered a speech via video to the U.S. Congress that garnered several ovations.

The Russian defense ministry denied bombing the theater or anywhere else in Mariupol on Wednesday.

Six nations have called for a U.N. Security Council meeting on Ukraine on Thursday afternoon, ahead of an expected vote Friday on a resolution demanding protection for Ukrainian civilians "in vulnerable situations," yet making no mention of Moscow's responsibility for the war.

"Russia is committing war crimes and targeting civilians," Britain's U.N. Mission tweeted, announcing the call for the meeting that was joined by the U.S., France and others. "Russia's illegal war on Ukraine is a threat to us all."

Russian attacks have battered cities and villages across large parts of Ukraine, including the capital, Kyiv, where residents have been huddling in homes and shelters. Russian troops shelled areas in and around the city on Wednesday, including a residential neighborhood just 2.5 kilometers (1.5 miles) from the presidential palace. A 12-story Kyiv apartment building erupted in flames after being hit by shrapnel.

Putin went on television to excoriate Russians who don't back him, even as both sides expressed optimism over efforts to negotiate an end to the fighting.

Damaged vehicles and buildings in Kharkiv city center in Ukraine, Wednesday, March 16, 2022. AP

Powerful quake off north Japan kills 4, more than 90 injured

TOKYO (AP)—A powerful 7.4 magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Fukushima in northern Japan on Wednesday night, smashing furniture, knocking out power and killing four people. A small tsunami reached shore, but the low-risk advisory was lifted by Thursday morning.

The region is part of northern Japan that was devastated by a deadly 9.0 quake and tsunami 11 years ago that caused nuclear reactor meltdowns, spewing massive radiation that still makes some parts uninhabitable.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told a parliamentary session Thursday morning that four people died during the quake and the cause of their deaths are being investigated, while 97 others were injured. A man in his 60s in Soma city died after falling from the second floor of his house while trying to evacuate, and a man in his 70s panicked and suffered a heart attack, Kyodo News reported earlier.

The Japan Meteorological Agency early Thursday lifted its low-risk advisory for a tsunami along the coasts of Fukushima and Miyagi prefectures. Tsunami waves of 30 centimeters (11 inches) reached shore in Ishinomaki, about 390 kilometers (242 miles) northeast of Tokyo.

The agency upgraded the magnitude of the quake to 7.4 from the initial 7.3, and the depth from 60 kilometers (36 miles) below the sea to 56 kilometers (35 miles).

NHK footage showed broken walls of a department store building fell to the ground and shards of windows scattered on the street near the main train station in the inland prefectural capital of Fukushima city. Roads were cracked and water poured out from pipes underground.

WORLD BRIEFS

7 inmates shot dead, 12 hurt in failed jailbreak in Myanmar

BANGKOK (AP)—Seven prisoners were killed and 12 others hurt when they were shot as they tried to break out from a prison in north-central Myanmar, authorities said Wednesday. About 50 prisoners tried to escape Tuesday by taking three guards hostage at Kalay Prison in Sagaing Region, which holds about 1,000 inmates, said a spokesperson for Myanmar's Prison Department, Khin Shwe. He said among the dead was a prisoner who led the attempted jailbreak.

Ukraine joins European grid, ending dependence on Russia

BERLIN (AP)—Engineers have linked Ukraine to an electricity grid spanning much of continental Europe, allowing the country to decouple its power system from hostile Russia, officials said Wednesday. Belgium-based ENTSO-E, which represents dozens of transmission system operators in Europe, said the electricity grids of Ukraine and its smaller neighbor Moldova were successfully synchronized with the Continental European Power System on a trial basis. "This is a significant milestone," the group said.

Zaghari-Ratcliffe, Ashoori back in Britain after Iran deal

LONDON (AP)—Two British citizens who had been jailed in Iran for more than five years—charity worker Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and retired civil engineer Anoosheh Ashoori—returned home to their families' hugs and tears Thursday after the U.K. settled a decades-old debt to Iran. Zaghari-Ratcliffe hugged her 7-year-old daughter, and her husband and members of Ashoori's family tearfully embraced one another after the two arrived via a government-chartered aircraft at the Brize Norton air force base in Oxfordshire in the early morning hours. The British government said a third detainee, Morad Tahbaz, who holds U.S., British and Iranian citizenship, was released from prison on furlough as part of the same deal. The breakthrough was reached as world leaders try to negotiate the return of both Iran and the U.S. to an international agreement designed to limit Tehran's nuclear enrichment program—talks that have been complicated by the prisoner issue. Negotiators have edged closer to a roadmap for restoring the accord, though recent Russian demands slowed progress.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

Joaquin Glen Taman Rios

BORN TO LIFE ON NOVEMBER 14, 1976
CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE ON MARCH 13, 2022

In celebration of his new life, he now joins:
Paternal Grandparents: †Joaquin Sablan Quidachai Rios
†Estefania Iguel Norita Rios
Maternal Grandparents: †Guillermo Somorang Taman
†Rosa Matagolai Ngirangau Taman Rios
Mother: †Rosario Ngirangau Taman Rios
Brother: †George Norita Rios
Sister: †Mary Jane T. Rios
Father In-Law: †Jonah Ongklungel
Sister In-Law: †Jayleen Ongklungel

His loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Father: David Norita Rios
Wife: Surella Jaema O. Rios
Daughter: Shaina Grace B. Rios
Son: Abram Rios Kaipat
Reared Sons: Abel T. Rios & Kids
Delvin Joe E. Rios
John Joseph Rios Mensah
Mother In-Law: Evalista Renguul
Siblings: Gina R. Pius Yaroitemal & Children & Grandchildren
Arlene R. / Don Enrico Ngiraked & Children & Grandchildren
David T. Rios Jr. & Children & Grandchildren
Norbert T. Rios / Marlene T. Rios & Children
Estefania Rios / Daniel Mensah & Children
Rosa T. Rios & Children
Brother In-Law: Jordan Ongklungel

He will be greatly missed by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews, Cousins, Godchildren, Friends and Family.

On Monday, March 21, 2022, his remains will be escorted from CHCC to the Nuestra Señora Bithen de Los Remedios Parish at 8:00 A.M. Mass of Christian Burial for our beloved Joaquin will be celebrated at 10:00 A.M., followed immediately by interment at Tanapag Public Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.

Please join us in prayer.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay, Ke Kmal Mesaul, Ghilisow, Kinisou Chapur, and Thank you.

THE FAMILY

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

'Worst house on best block' of San Francisco sells for $2M

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—A decaying, 122-year-old Victorian marketed as "the worst house on the best block" of San Francisco has sold for nearly $2 million—an eye-catching price that the realtor said was the outcome of overbidding in an auction. A developer's $1.97 million cash offer for the 2,158-square-foot (200-square-meter) property in the Noe Valley neighborhood was finalized last week. On the social media page Zillow Gone Wild, some commenters marveled at the price while others questioned the value of a house with boarded-up windows, peeling paint and an unstable foundation. One commenter joked: "It actually has a parking space. No wonder it sold for almost 2 million!"

Thousands of red UK phone boxes to be protected from closure

LONDON (AP)—Thousands of Britain's iconic red phone boxes will be protected from removal under new rules, the U.K.'s telecommunications regulator said Tuesday. The public payphone boxes may look like obsolete relics in an age of ubiquitous smartphones, but regulator Ofcom said they can still be a "lifeline" for people in need. The regulator is proposing rules to prevent 5,000 call boxes in areas with poor mobile coverage from being closed down. It said that phone booths in areas considered accident or suicide hotspots, and those that have had more than 52 calls made from them in the past 12 months, would also meet the criteria. Ofcom said there are still around 21,000 phone boxes across the country, and that almost 150,000 calls to emergency services were made from phone boxes from May 2019 to May 2020. Some 45,000 calls were also made to other helplines like the Samaritans.

All 100 lab monkeys accounted for after several escape crash

DANVILLE, Pa. (AP)—The last of the escaped monkeys from the crash of a truck towing a trailer load of 100 of the animals was accounted for by late Saturday, a day after the pickup collided with a dump truck on a Pennsylvania highway, authorities said. Several monkeys had escaped following Friday's collision, Pennsylvania State Police said. But only one had remained unaccounted for as of Saturday morning, prompting the Pennsylvania Game Commission and other agencies to launch a search for it amid frigid weather. Kristen Nordlund, a spokesperson with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said in an email Saturday evening that all 100 of the cynomolgus macaque monkeys had since been accounted for. Three were dead after being euthanized. The email did not elaborate on why the three were euthanized or how all came to be accounted for. But Nordlund said those euthanized were done so humanely according to American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines.

Bosnian makes rotating house a monument of love for his wife

SRBAC, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)—It's not exactly on par with India's Taj Mahal, but a family house in a small town in northern Bosnia is in its own way a monument to love. The house in Srbac was designed and built by 72-year-old Vojin Kusic. With a green facade and red metal roof, it can rotate a full circle to satisfy his wife Ljubica's shifting desires as to what she would like to see when she looks out of its windows. "After I reached an advanced age and after my children took over the family business, I finally had enough time to task myself with granting my wife her wish" to be able to change the position of rooms in her house whenever she wants, Kusic said. Many years ago when they married, Kusic had built another, typical house for himself and his wife in which they raised their three children. At the time, his wife wanted their bedrooms to face the sun, so they did. But this meant their living room faced away from the road. After a while, he says his wife complained that "she could not see people entering our front yard" and Kusic had to remodel everything.

Got the wrong goat: West Point cadets try to nab Navy mascot

WEST POINT, N.Y. (AP)—West Point cadets attempting to nab the U.S. Naval Academy's mascot ahead of the annual Army-Navy football game ended up grabbing a different goat, according to a report. U.S. Military Academy cadets traveled this weekend to a farm near Annapolis, Maryland, that is home to Navy mascot Bill, who belongs to a long line of goat mascots with the same name. Cadets gave chase to the spooked goats. And instead of grabbing Bill No. 37, they came away Bill No. 34, a one-horned, 14-year-old retiree, according to The New York Times. West Point officials would not confirm details of the incident Tuesday, but said the animal was returned safely and that they were investigating those responsible. "The U.S. Military Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy are disappointed by the trust that was broken recently between our brothers and sisters in arms. These actions do not reflect either academy's core values of dignity and respect," read a prepared statement attributed to superintendents Lt. Gen. Darryl A. Williams and Vice Adm. Sean Buck.

Hot tub on wheels: Suit says party vehicle lacks pool permit

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A Tennessee entrepreneur whose hot tub on wheels is one of downtown Nashville's best-known party vehicles has been told to stop operating a public swimming pool without a permit, a lawsuit says. Nashville's metropolitan government asked a judge to temporarily shut down the mobile tub in a lawsuit filed last week, The Tennessean reported. A hearing is scheduled next Wednesday. The health department informed Music City Party Tub of the violation in an Aug. 11 letter, according to the report. The party vehicle has been a regular presence in Nashville's downtown entertainment district since April 2019, touted on a website as allowing at least six or seven revelers to soak at one time. It was that month that owner Guy Williams stopped by the health department, the agency says, adding staff told him to submit design plans and apply for a pool permit.

Kansas woman wins traditional pancake race against England

LIBERAL, Kan. (AP)—A woman from Liberal, Kansas, is this year's champion of the traditional Pancake Day Race against women in Olney, England. Whitney Hay won the U.S. leg of the race in Liberal on Tuesday with a time of 1:07, KSNW-TV reported. That beat Katie Godof of Olney, England, who ran her race in 1:10. The race returned after a hiatus in 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic. Hay, a 21-year-old college student, also won the Liberal race in 2020 but lost to Olney that year. Contestants must carry a pancake in a frying pan and flip it at the beginning and end of the 415-yard (380 meter) race. The event began in Olney in the 15th century. In 1950, Liberal challenged Olney to an international competition.

Science & Technology

Still waiting for driverless vehicles? Head to a farm

BILL KRZYZANOWSKI/JOHN DEERE VIA AP

This 2021 photo provided by John Deere shows an autonomous tractor plowing a field, without a driver, on a farm in Blue Earth, Minn.

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—For years Americans have been told autonomous technology was improving and that driverless vehicles were just around the corner.

Finally they're here, but to catch a glimpse of them, you'll need to go to a farm rather than look along city streets.

Beginning this fall, green 14-ton tractors that can plow day or night with no one sitting in the cab, or even watching nearby, will come off the John Deere factory assembly line in Waterloo, Iowa, harkening the age of autonomous farming.

The development follows more than a decade-long effort by the world's largest farm equipment manufacturer, and marks a milestone for automation advocates, who for years have been explaining why driverless cars aren't quite ready for prime time.

"I'm glad to see they're

TECH Q&A: Refurbished PCs may need a BIOS update

Q: I bought a refurbished Dell laptop last June and have had problems with it ever since. The PC will get a blue screen and the error message includes the words "stop code" and "memory management." Then the PC will reboot. I've also had problems getting the PC to wake up from "hibernate mode." I worked with the PC seller for several months without solving the problem and now he no longer returns my calls and e-mails. What can I do?

A: One of the issues with refurbished computers is whether all the new replacement parts work with an older PC. In your case, it sounds as if the PC's RAM (computer chip) memory was upgraded, but the new RAM conflicts with something already on the PC.

Where's the problem? Most likely, the PC's new RAM conflicts with the PC's outdated BIOS (basic input/output system) software that helps load the Windows operating system when the PC is turned on. The conflict can cause your PC to display a blue screen and the message "Stop Code: Memory Management," then automatically reboot. An outdated BIOS can also interfere with the PC awakening from hibernate mode, an energy-saving setting used when the PC is idle. (Hibernate problems can also be caused by other PC issues – see tinyurl.com/pdc3s7rx).

If I'm correct, the solution is to update your PC's BIOS with a new copy that won't conflict with the RAM memory. You can do that for free through a Dell website.

However, before you go to the trouble of replacing the BIOS, check to see if that update will solve your problem. Go to tinyurl.com/2p824mvb and in the search box type in the name of your Dell computer model. If you're not sure what model you have, download the Dell "SupportAssist" software from the same website and it will identify your PC model.

Once you enter the PC model name on the website, you'll see a list of updates available for your computer. Click on the BIOS update, then click "view full driver details," then look under "enhancements" for the phrase "Improved memory compatibility for DDR4 2666Mhz memory DIMMS." If you find that phrase, downloading the updated BIOS should solve your problem.

But before downloading the BIOS, do these things first:

—Back up your PC's data to an external storage device, then disconnect all external devices such as disk drives, flash drives or printers.

—If you run your laptop on its battery, make sure you have at least 10% power remaining.

—If you use Windows BitLocker encryption software, turn it off. If you don't, you may not be able to access the PC's data after the new BIOS is installed.

To turn off BitLocker, follow the directions for enabling the software (see tinyurl.com/2vcf6ytf) but turn it off instead. Allow 20 minutes to a couple of hours for the PC data to be decrypted.

Then follow the directions under "How to update the BIOS on a Dell computer" (see tinyurl.com/2rv493jk).

If installing a new BIOS doesn't solve your PC problem, use the diagnostic capabilities of SupportAssist to identify other computer problems or take the PC to a different repair shop.

If that doesn't help, check to see if you have any warranty coverage. Unlike new PCs, refurbished ones don't necessarily come with a warranty. But for those that do, the warranty length may vary from 90 days (usually free) or longer (at additional cost.) If you still have warranty coverage, contact your original PC dealer or Dell.

TECH Q&A

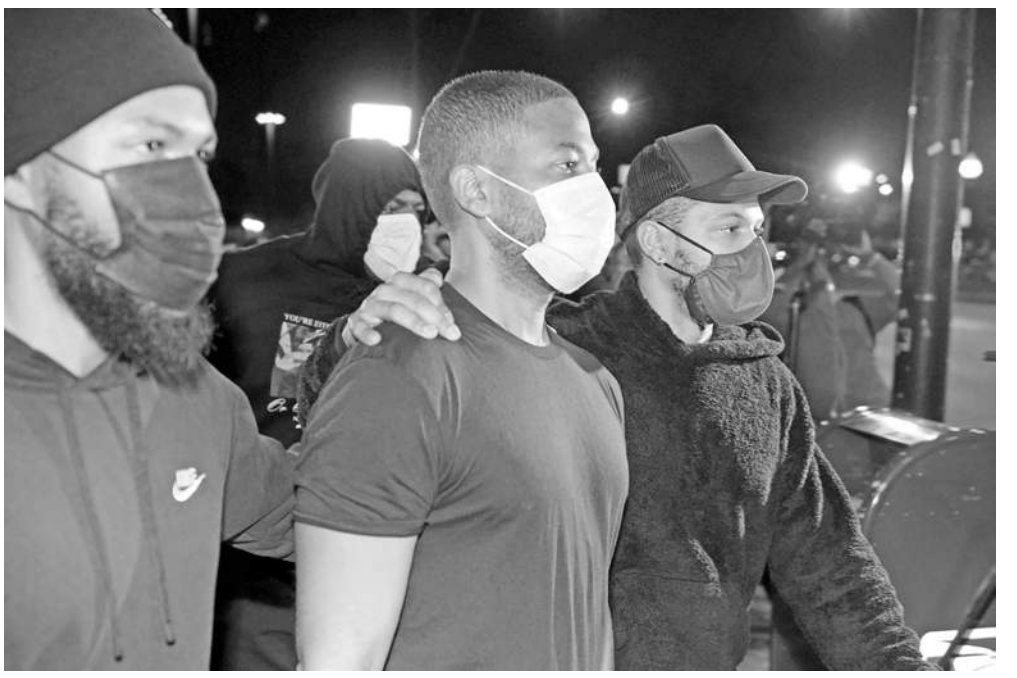
By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Star Tribune of Minneapolis*. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Life & Style

Jussie Smollett

released from county jail during appeal



Actor Jussie Smollett, center, leaves the Cook County Jail Wednesday, March 16, 2022, after an appeals court agreed with his lawyers that he should be released pending the appeal of his conviction for lying to police about a racist and homophobic attack in Chicago. AP

CHICAGO (AP)—Jussie Smollett was released from jail following six nights behind bars after an appeals court agreed with his lawyers that he should be free pending the appeal of his conviction for lying to police about a racist and homophobic attack.

The former "Empire" actor walked out of the Cook County Jail on Wednesday surrounded by security. He did not comment as he got into an awaiting SUV, but his attorneys said Smollett, who is Black and gay, was the target of a racist justice system and people playing politics.

The appeals court ruling came after a Cook County judge sentenced Smollett last week to immediately begin serving 150 days in jail for his conviction on five felony counts of disorderly conduct for lying to police. In an outburst immediately after the sentence was handed down, Smollett proclaimed his innocence and said "I am not suicidal. And if anything happens to me when I go in there, I did not do it to myself. And you must all know that."

The appeals court said Smollett could be released after posting a personal recognizance bond of $150,000, meaning he didn't have to put down money but agrees to come to court as required.

Smollett defense attorney Nenye Uche, speaking to reporters outside the jail after Smollett left, said the Smollett family is "very very happy with today's developments." Uche said during his time at the jail, Smollett had not eaten and drank only water, though he did not say why.

He criticized the special prosecutor's decision to charge Smollett again after the initial charges were dropped by Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx and he paid a fine. He also called Judge James Linn's sentence excessive for a low-level felony, adding that the appellate court doesn't "play politics."

"The real question is: Should Black men be walked into jail for a class 4 felony? Shame on you if you think they should," Uche said.

Special prosecutor Dan Webb recommended that Smollett serve "an appropriate amount of prison time" during sentencing.

"His conduct denigrated hate crimes," Webb said after the hearing. "His conduct will discourage others who are victims of hate crimes from coming forward and reporting those crimes to law enforcement."

Smollett's attorneys had argued that he would have completed the sentence by the time the appeal process was completed and that Smollett could be in danger of physical harm if he remained locked up in Cook County Jail.

The office of the special prosecutor called the claim that Smollett's health and safety were at risk "factually incorrect," in a response to his motion, noting that Smollett was being held in protective custody at the jail.

The court's decision marks the latest chapter in a strange story that began in January 2019 when Smollett reported to Chicago police that he was the victim of a racist and homophobic attack by two men wearing ski masks. The manhunt for the attackers soon turned into an investigation of Smollett himself and his arrest on charges that he'd orchestrated the attack and lied to police about it.

Authorities said Smollett paid two men he knew from work on the TV show "Empire" to stage the attack. Prosecutors said he told them what racist and homophobic slurs to shout, and to yell that Smollett was in "MAGA Country," a reference to the campaign slogan of Donald Trump's presidential campaign.

A jury convicted Smollett in December on five felony counts of disorderly conduct—the charge filed when a person lies to police. He was acquitted on a sixth count. Judge James Linn sentenced Smollett last week to 150 days in jail—with good behavior he could have been released in as little as 75 days.

Chris Cuomo wants $125 million for 'unlawful' CNN firing

NEW YORK (AP)—Chris Cuomo wants an arbitrator to award him $125 million for his firing from CNN, alleging his bosses knew full well how he advised his brother, former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, and suggested they did the same themselves.

His filing seeking arbitration on Wednesday exposed more ugliness at the network, where Cuomo, CNN chief Jeff Zucker and his top deputy, Allison Gollust, have all been ousted in the past three months.

Zucker fired Cuomo, host of the network's most popular prime time show, in December after a New York Attorney General's report publicly revealed new details about how he helped his brother strategize to fight sexual harassment allegations.

Cuomo

"It should be obvious by now that Chris Cuomo did not lie to CNN about helping his brother," said his lawyer, Bryan Freedman. "In fact, as the limited information released from Warner Media's investigation makes clear, CNN's highest-level executives not only knew about Chris' involvement in helping his brother but also actively assisted the governor, both through Chris and directly themselves."

There was no comment Wednesday from a representative for Zucker and Gollust. The spokeswoman, Risa Heller, has denied in the past that Gollust, a former press aide to Gov. Cuomo, offered advice or counsel to the governor while she worked at CNN.

CNN declined comment on the filing.

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Chris Cuomo interviewed his big brother on CNN nine times—a temporary lift of the network's policy that Chris Cuomo not participate in stories concerning the governor.

In his filing Wednesday, Chris Cuomo said CNN leadership demanded the interviews even though he and his brother had expressed reservations about them.

He said that Zucker and Gollust tried to strengthen the network's ties to his brother and pushed the New York governor not to appear on other networks. He said they requested the governor hold his daily briefings at a time CNN's ratings needed a boost.

"Network standards were changed in a calculated decision to boost ratings," Freedman said. "When those practices were called into question, Chris was made the scapegoat."

Young man's eating habits are more trough than table

DEAR ABBY: My stepson "Ryan" is an active senior in high school. He's a great kid, and I love him. I'm proud and delighted that he says he loves my home-cooked meals, which he doesn't get at his mother's house. They eat a lot of takeout or premade foods. Not everyone likes to cook, so I don't judge.

My concern is Ryan eats his food at an alarming speed, especially if it's something soft, like lasagna or casseroles. His plate is nearly finished before anyone else has more than a couple bites of theirs. I don't want to shame or embarrass him, but it seems unhealthy for his digestion and possibly even dangerous with certain foods. It's also very unpleasant to watch.

Last night, Ryan inhaled an entire enchilada in two or three bites swallowed whole. He didn't chew once. My husband will gently tell Ryan to slow down if I give him a well-timed look. Otherwise, he seems unfazed by it. Ryan frequently eats most of a serving dish of something if we don't point out that others might want seconds, too.

I hesitate to make a big deal out of it because he's a great kid, and my husband is a wonderful father, outside of not teaching his son good eating habits. Ryan was a chubby little boy, but has become tall and lean after a huge growth spurt. I feel bad saying this, but I'm grossed out and worried at the same time. Your guidance is appreciated.

COOKING STEPMOM IN THE WEST

DEAR STEPMOM: It is years late, but please have a serious talk with your husband about the fact that his son never learned basic table manners. From your description, he eats like an animal. He seems to not only be eating too much, but also too fast, which is visually unappealing as well as unhealthy.

Table manners are important. Not having them could have a negative impact on his social life and even his career in the future. Please point this out to your husband and to Ryan, because it's important they both hear it. It may take reinforcement and constant reminding, so be prepared.

DEAR ABBY: My wife's 90th birthday is coming up soon. Our younger daughter is giving her a birthday party at a nice restaurant and inviting only women. When I asked her why I wasn't invited, she said the party will be "more fun" with only ladies. I don't understand or agree with this. I would enjoy visiting with the ladies. What do you think about her decision? I think it stinks.

NOT INVITED IN TEXAS

DEAR NOT INVITED: I "think" this decision should have been made by your wife as well as your daughter. At your ages, there's no guarantee how many more birthdays you will have together, and for you to be summarily excluded seems wrong to me. If this is a ladies' luncheon, it's possible "the girls" will enjoy celebrating without their husbands—if they are lucky enough to still have husbands.

Because this milestone birthday is one you would like to celebrate with your wife, why not take her out for a special dinner —just the two of you—or include your children, grandchildren, great-grandkids, etc., and make it a family affair?

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

MOM, FROM NOW ON, I DON'T WANT TO BE INTRODUCED TO PEOPLE AS PLAIN "CALVIN."
I WANT TO BE INTRODUCED AS "CALVIN, BOY OF DESTINY."
BOY OF DESTINY?
BUT YOU HAVE TO SAY IT RIGHT. PAUSE A LITTLE AFTER "BOY," AND SAY "DESTINY" A BIT SLOWER AND DEEPER FOR EMPHASIS. SAY IT, "BOY..... OF DESSSTINY," LIKE THAT.
I THINK I'M GOING TO STOP INTRODUCING YOU ALTOGETHER.
I WISH YOU HAD SOME CYMBALS TO CRASH AFTER YOU SAID IT

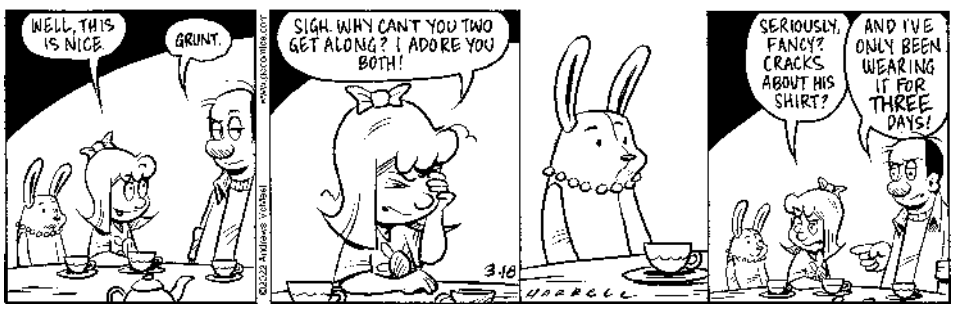
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WE SHOULD GO DANCING
WE DID ONCE
JUMPING AROUND BECAUSE YOU HAD A FLEA DOESN'T COUNT AS DANCING
YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS OF MY SWEET MOVES

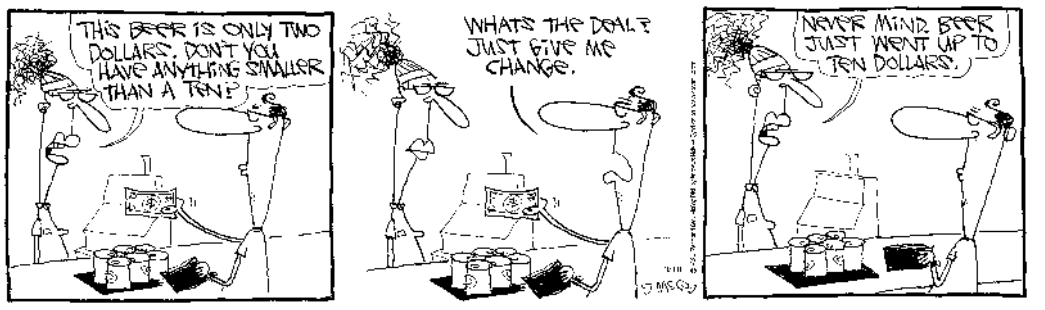
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WELL, THIS IS NICE.
GRUNT.
SIGH. WHY CAN'T YOU TWO GET ALONG? I ADORE YOU BOTH!
SERIOUSLY, FANCY? CRACKS ABOUT HIS SHIRT?
AND I'VE ONLY BEEN WEARING IT FOR THREE DAYS!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THIS BEER IS ONLY TWO DOLLARS. DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING SMALLER THAN A TEN?
WHAT'S THE DEAL? JUST GIVE ME CHANGE.
NEVER MIND. BEER JUST WENT UP TO TEN DOLLARS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

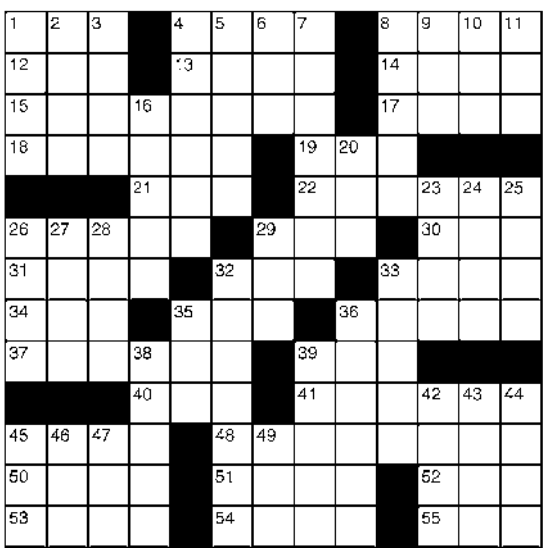
ACROSS
1 "NCIS" airer
4 Run-down area
8 Libya neighbor
12 Spanish gold
13 Wife of Zeus
14 Vagrant
15 Big star
17 Letter extras (Abbr.)
18 Aches (for)
19 Guitar's kin
21 Slugger Mel
22 Lumber mill cutter
26 Slow tempo
29 Lustrous black
30 Ecol. watchdog
31 Rainbow
32 Abolish
33 Swiss peaks
34 Mayo ingredient
35 Pants part
36 Per Franklin, a certainty
37 Villainous
39 "Bali —"
40 Alphabet end
41 "Stop already!"
45 — salad
48 Hid from view
50 Sweet sandwich
51 Schnozz
52 Busy insect
53 Sketched
54 Former mates
55 Bk. after Exodus

DOWN
1 New Jersey Senator Booker
2 Jane Fonda in "Klute"
3 Pop
4 Japanese faith
5 Minimal
6 Ornate vase
7 Ripened
8 Incubator sound
9 Sweetie
10 Jackson 5 hit song
11 Two, in Acapulco
16 Pirates' potables
20 Tool set
23 Actress Ward
24 Calendar entry (Abbr.)
25 Cleanse
26 Property claim
27 Golden Fleece ship
28 Diana of "The Avengers"
29 Springy dance
32 Football field area
33 Vowel group
35 Actress Myrna
36 Does the tango
38 River bend
39 "Siddhartha" author
42 Russian river
43 Actor Hackman
44 RCA purchase
45 Massachusetts cape
46 Bobby of hockey
47 Quilters' get-together
49 Jury enclosure

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	A	C	H		S	A	F	E		P	H	O
A	L	O	E		K	N	O	X		O	O	H
C	A	M	B	R	I	D	G	E		R	O	M
E	S	P	R	I	T			C	A	N	T	S
			E	D		P	E	S	C	I		
P	H	E	W		A	N	T		A	D	D	S
D	O	L			S	E	A			G	O	O
F	I	D	O		T	E	T		S	E	W	N
			R	A	Y	O	N		O	H		
H	A	I	F	A			J	U	R	I	S	T
M	I	D		C	O	L	E	R	I	D	G	E
O	M	G		H	O	E	D		M	E	T	A
S	S	E		T	O	N	I		P	A	S	S

Yesterday's answer 3-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lily Collins, 33; Adam Levine, 43; Queen Latifah, 52; Vanessa Williams, 59.

Happy Birthday: Do your part, be passionate about your beliefs and make a difference. Speak from the heart, and command attention when needed. Trust your instincts and listen to opposition, complaints and criticisms, and you will come up with valuable solutions that pave the way for a better future. Be strong, and you will gain respect and a place for yourself at a table full of intellectuals. Your numbers are 4, 13, 18, 20, 27, 33, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Overthinking will hold you back. Concentrate on getting things done. The progress you make will urge you to keep going. Refuse to let uncertainty kick in when forward motion is the path to satisfaction and peace of mind. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Throw yourself into what you must do, and refuse to let yourself become overwhelmed with the process of getting from beginning to end. Hard work will help you meet demands and build the self-confidence to take on your next task.✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Let what you do speak for you. Embrace every pursuit with the intent of creating a masterpiece. Whether it's a hobby, a physical goal or how deep your love is for someone, give it your all. You will excel. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Refuse to let what others do confuse you. Focus on what's important and necessary. Believe in yourself, and avoid joint ventures or shared expenses. You'll do best if you take control instead of giving someone else that privilege. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Get together with people who share your views, not those who drive you crazy. Kick back and enjoy life and what it has to offer. A show of appreciation and gratitude is encouraged. Choose to do something that makes you feel good. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take on a positive attitude, network, socialize and participate in events that offer personal growth and opportunity. Evaluate your relationships and see who is interested in going on an adventure or learning expedition that is bold and refreshing. Expand your mind. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Share how you feel with someone who affects your physical and emotional well-being. Search for a way to improve your life or make your surroundings more comfortable and stress-free. Don't take on debt; lower your overhead. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Relying on others will lead to disappointment. Think outside the box. Surround yourself with people who are avant-garde and not afraid of change. Embrace what you find intriguing, and you'll discover something that inspires you to do your own thing. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Sidestep someone else's dilemma. You aren't likely to get the whole truth if you rely on one source for information. Put more emphasis on personal gain, health and how best to handle your finances and love life. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take control of cash flow or health situations. Let your thoughts be known, and don't deviate from your plan because someone complains. Do what's necessary to ensure your safety, maintain a good reputation and increase your ability to do as you please. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* You'll have second thoughts about money. Don't let your emotions interfere with necessary adjustments. A positive change that relieves stress in a relationship with a friend or relative will ease your mind and free up your cash. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Share your grievances, deal with the backlash and move forward knowing you've done your part. Look on the bright side, be an optimist and make decisions that bring you the happiness you deserve. Take responsibility for your life and your future. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are assertive, talkative and demanding. You are wise and unusual.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4		7		2			
5						3		
				5			6	
4			3					2
		8		4		6		
2					7			4
	9			8				
		4						5
			6		5		7	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	9	7	8	2	4	3	1	6
2	4	6	3	1	5	9	7	8
1	3	8	6	7	9	2	5	4
8	7	5	4	3	6	1	2	9
9	6	1	5	8	2	4	3	7
4	2	3	1	9	7	6	8	5
6	8	2	7	4	1	5	9	3
7	5	9	2	6	3	8	4	1
3	1	4	9	5	8	7	6	2

Difficulty Level ★★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

VIRTUAL WEDDINGS Solution: 10 letters

D	A	T	E	Y	Y	R	O	M	E	M	A	S	K	D
S	E	N	I	L	N	O	O	V	I	D	E	O	R	R
M	T	S	O	P	P	O	S	P	L	U	G	O	V	E
C	E	R	I	U	R	T	M	R	N	A	C	T	E	S
I	Y	N	E	G	O	O	A	E	E	E	P	V	N	S
S	R	K	U	A	N	U	V	N	R	W	I	T	D	E
U	A	E	S	O	M	R	T	M	G	E	O	E	O	E
M	S	T	C	P	B	E	A	L	W	L	C	L	R	P
T	R	I	M	A	R	R	I	A	G	E	E	B	F	Y
E	E	M	E	T	G	I	I	F	I	W	V	A	A	K
T	V	E	A	A	I	S	V	D	H	I	E	T	M	S
I	I	I	T	A	H	C	O	A	E	N	F	S	I	W
V	N	S	P	U	B	L	I	C	T	1	I	O	L	O
N	N	E	C	I	V	R	E	S	G	E	L	H	Y	V
I	A	T	T	E	N	D	A	N	C	E	N	O	H	P

© 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 3/18

Angle, Anniversary, Attendance, Bride, Ceremony, Chat, Date, Design, Dress, Entertain, Family, Flowers, Gift, Groom, Guest, Hair, Host, Icon, Instagram, Invite, Laptop, Life, Makeup, Marriage, Mask, Memory, Menu, Music, Online, Phone, Plug, Post, Private, Public, Record, Service, Skype, Stream, Tablet, Time, Toast, Tour, Vendor, Venue, Video, View, Vows, Wi-Fi

Yesterday's Answer: Captain

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Curry injures left foot, Celtics rout Warriors 110-88

HOUSTON (AP)— Stephen Curry went down with a left foot injury late in the first half and didn't return as Marcus Smart and the Boston Celtics routed the Golden State Warriors 110-88 on Wednesday night.

Curry was injured with 4:19 remaining in the second quarter along the sideline while scrambling for a loose ball as Smart made a diving lunge on the play and landed on the reigning scoring champion's leg. Curry grimaced in pain and got up but hobbled along before exiting on the next dead ball moments later.

That came when Smart made another aggressive play, receiving a Flagrant 1 foul 4:09 before halftime when he leapt and caught his leg on Klay Thompson's shooting arm. Smart got an earful from furious Warriors coach Steve Kerr.

The team said Curry, who had three points on 1-for-4 shooting, experienced soreness in the foot.

Draymond Green was whistled for a technical for arguing a foul called on Thompson against Smart at the 1:48 mark, with Green throwing his arms up in the air in disgust and yelling.

Jayson Tatum had 26 points and 12 rebounds to lead Boston, while Jalen Brown scored 14 of his 26 points in the first half. Smart wound up with 20 points on 8-of-12 shooting and eight assists.

Suns 129, Rockets 112

In Houston, Devin Booker scored 36 points, including 15 in the third, Mikal Bridges added 26 and NBA-leading Phoenix beat Houston.

Booker shot 15 of 24 from the field and scored at least 30 points for the second time in the last three games. He had 15 points in the third quarter.

Deandre Ayton added 23 points and 11 rebounds, and Torrey Craig — starting in place of the injured Jae Crowder for the short-handed Suns — had 21 points on 8-of-8 shooting and 14 rebounds.

Also playing without All-Star point guard Chris Paul and the sixth-man Cameron Johnson, Phoenix improved to 56-14 and pushed its NBA-best road record to 27-6. The Rockets are last in the NBA at 17-52.

Jalen Green scored 22 points for Houston.

Mavericks 113, Nets 111

In New York, Spencer Dinwiddie made a 3-pointer at the buzzer against his former team, lifting Dallas past Brooklyn.

Dinwiddie hit the winning basket with nine seconds left Sunday in Boston and came through in the clutch again after Kevin Durant had given the Nets a one-point lead with a 3-pointer with 10 seconds to play.

Luka Doncic Doncic finished with 37 points, nine rebounds and nine assists in the Mavericks' eighth win in nine games. Dinwiddie scored 22 points, 15 in the fourth quarter.

Durant had 23 points, 10 assists and six rebounds. Goran Dragic scored a season-high 21 points.

Jazz 125, Bulls 110

In Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell scored a Utah-record 25 of his 37 points in the third quarter, Jordan Clarkson added 26 and Utah beat Chicago.

Mitchell made a franchise-record seven 3-pointers in the third period on nine attempts. He broke Karl Malone's team mark of 22 points in a quarter. Mitchell finished with nine

AP

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry, left, reacts after going for a loose ball next to Boston Celtics guard Marcus Smart during the first half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco, Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

3-pointers, besting his previous career best of seven.

Chicago's Zach LaVine, who has been affected by a sore left knee, made five 3s and had 33 points in tying his highest scoring output in four months. DeMar DeRozan added 25 points. The Bulls have lost seven of nine.

Timberwolves 124, Lakers 104

In Timberwolves, Karl-Anthony Towns scored 16 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter to help Minnesota beat Los Angeles.

Anthony Edwards had 20 of his 27 points in the second quarter to lead the early surge by the Timberwolves, who never trailed on their way to their ninth victory in 10 games.

LeBron James, playing through knee soreness, had just 19 points to lead the Lakers. They fell a season-worst 11 games under the .500 mark at 29-40.

76ers 118, Cavaliers 114

In Cleveland, Joel Embiid had 35 points and 17 rebounds, James Harden added 21 points and added 11 assists and Philadelphia beat Cleveland.

Embiid was a game-time decision with a sore back, but showed no signs of the injury on his 28th birthday. The All-Star center shot 13 of 19 from the field and had five assists in 35 minutes.

Darius Garland had 22 points and seven assists for the Cavaliers.

Nuggets 127, Wizards 109

In Washington, Nikola Jokic had 29 points and 13 rebounds in an efficient 26-minute performance to help Denver cruise past Washington.

Jokic reached 10,001 career NBA points — all with Denver — and added eight assists while falling two shy of his 19th triple-double the season. He shot 10 of 14 from the floor, hitting both 3-pointers and all seven foul shots he attempted.

Deni Avdija scored 19 points for Washington.

Bucks 135, Kings 126

In Sacramento, Calif., Giannis Antetokounmpo had 36 points and 10 rebounds, Wesley Matthews made a clutch 3-pointer with 1:32 remaining and Milwaukee held off Sacramento.

Khris Middleton added 32 points, eight rebounds and eight assists to help Milwaukee win for the eighth time in nine games. Jrue Holiday had 21 point.

Domantas Sabonis had 22 points for Sacramento.

Knicks 128, Trail Blazers 98

In New York, RJ Barrett scored 31 points, Julius Randle added 20 points and nine rebounds and New York beat Portland.

Immanuel Quickley had 18 points, and Evan Fournier added 14.

Jason Hart scored 17 points for Portland. The Trail Blazers have lost eight of nine and six in a row on the road.

Hornets 115, Hawks 106

In Charlotte, N.C., LaMelo Ball had 22 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds, P.J. Washington scored 13 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter and Charlotte beat Atlanta for its third straight victory.

Montrezl Harrell added 20 points off the bench and Terry Rozier and Miles Bridges each had 18 points.

Clint Capella had 17 points and 15 rebounds for the Hawks. Trae Young had 15 assists but was held to nine points on 3-of-12 shooting.

Raptors 103, Clippers 100

In Los Angeles, Pascal Siakam had 31 points and streaking Toronto held off a fourth-quarter comeback by Los Angeles.

The Raptors have won five straight to move into a tie for sixth place with the Cleveland Cavaliers in the Eastern Conference.

Siakam also had 12 rebounds. Fred VanVleet added 21 points for the Raptors.

Reggie Jackson led the Clippers with 23 points.

Spurs 122, Thunder 120

In San Antonio, Dejounte Murray had 26 points and 12 assists and San Antonio held on to beat Oklahoma City.

Lonnie Walker IV made a 3-pointer with 1.8 seconds as San Antonio salvaged a victory after blowing a 16-point lead. Walker, who had 20 points.

The Spurs had a season-high 19 3-pointers in handing the Thunder their seventh straight loss. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 34 points to lead Oklahoma City.

STYLISH
QUALITY
PERFECT FIT
ZERO DOWN SOFAS!
ASHLEY FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INC.
LI USA LeatherItalia
BIG SELECTION
COMFORT
*$0 down payment on new sofa or sofa set rental agreements. Regular rental rates apply thereafter. See store for more styles & details.
NO CREDIT NEEDED
Chalan Kanoa 234-DIAL | Middle Road 234-RENT
DIAL Rent-to-Own

MarPac donates $3.4K to NMC Golf Open

Continuing its efforts to support higher education in the Marianas, Marianas Pacific Distributors recently donated $3,400 in cash, in kind prizes, and beverages to Northern Marianas College for its upcoming golf tournament currently scheduled for Saturday, March 19, 2022.

"We are proud to be able to support Northern Marianas College," said Guy Pudney, resident manager of MARPAC. "We wish all players the best of luck this coming tournament."

NMC's Golf Open will be held on the east course of the Saipan LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. Showtime is at 6am, and the shotgun start will be at 7am. The tournament will follow a medal play format.

"MARPAC's continuing support is important to us," said NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD. "We are grateful for the company's contribution."

First place winners in the men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies Flights (low gross and low net) in the golf tournament will each receive $500, while $300 and $200 will go to the second and third place finishers, respectively. Hole-in-one prizes also include a brand new 2022 Civic Sport Hatchback from Atkins Kroll Saipan, $5,000 from McDonald's, and $5,000 from Pacifica Insurance.

The tournament will also feature many other items such as raffle prizes like smartphones, hotel stays, meals, and much more.

Registration for this year's tournament is closed as the maximum number of players has been reached. Those who have not registered to play but would like to be placed on a player wait list can contact 237-6780.

The college is asking companies, organizations, or individuals who are interested in sponsoring holes and/or for any in-kind or cash donation to help support the CNMI's post secondary institution. For more information on how to become a sponsor, please call 237-6780 or email carla.sablan@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

NMC

Marianas Pacific Distributors donated $3,400 in cash, in kind prizes, and beverages to Northern Marianas College. The donation will be used for the NMC Foundation's upcoming golf tournament on Saturday, March 19, 2022.

CRUZ

From Page 28

before leaving for the Samoan capital.

"Bobby is a really steady influence on everybody. Also he wants to help coach because he can. If we have multiple matches going on in the team competition maybe I can be at boys games if the girls are also playing. He can then take one and I could take the other, He has some coaching experience and he also is a very positive person," he said.

Race, meanwhile, sees big things for the still developing Ramsey.

"Colin is just a very mellow and laid-back guy who works hard on his tennis game. I'd say he's a been very, very disciplined in the last six months about his training and it's really paying off in the way his game is looking. His game is just much, much solid now compared to six months ago. That comes from him playing and training a lot because you figure a lot of things outside when you're playing that much," he said.

As for the holdovers, Race said Sinclair and Schorr have only gotten better five years removed from their men's doubles gold in Apia.

"You have to start with Colin Sinclair because he's Mr. Gold Medal for us. It's like there's no competition. I'm sure the players that he played in 2019 have been working on their game since then. I'm sure Clement Mainguy of Vanuatu, who gave him the hardest time, I think Colin beat him with 6-3, 6-2, has gotten better. But he's not as good as Colin and we can see that from his Davis Cup results. I'm sure Matthew Stubbings of Papua New Guinea has also improved as well."

While everyone knows that the son of former Saipan residents Peter and Kathryn Sinclair is the top player in Oceania, Race said the 26-year-old has astute leadership skills as well.

"There's something that Colin brings that people don't really talk about and that is he really brings leadership with him. He was a really good team leader in Samoa and he really sets a great example for the other players."

Sinclair's leadership was in full display even prior to the Mini Games in Samoa.

"I'm sure Robbie [Schorr] will probably laugh at this now. Robbie had been staying in Fiji for a month or six weeks and been competing in some ITF tournaments and stuff when we sort of picked him up on the way to the Games. He was having an attitude problem you know and I had spoken to him and he kind of just walked off in a kinda very juvenile way when I was talking to him about it."

However, the now Pacific William Woods University sophomore's attitude did a complete 180-degree turn soon after meeting Sinclair.

"Then Colin got there in the middle of the night when Robbie was sleeping and we go out training the next day and Robbie totally lost his attitude problem. He's like 'this guy is amazing. He's my teammate and I'm not going to make a fool of myself in front of this guy.' So Robbie took the lead from Colin and Colin is just like he's so professional in everything that he does. He's a professional tennis player and that professionalism and leadership really was sort of set the tone for the other players—the guys and the girls—in the Games. Colin really brings that and plus he's a lot of fun. He's always joking around and he's a super positive guy. He's got the Peter Sinclair attitude."

As for Schorr, Race said the ACC Academic Honor Roll and ITA Scholar-Athlete surely has improved by leaps and bounds since the last time he saw him.

"We're five years down the road from him playing when he was a very good player then helping us win a gold medal in 2017 when he was still a high school kid. So, now that he's a college player he'll be bringing a lot more in to this situation," he said.

NAT'L

From Page 28

and sits on the officials table. The NMIBF has completed the girls middle school competition as well as the girls and boys high school and is gearing up for boys middle school before concluding the season with the elementary games.

"When we partnered with the PSS in conducting the interscholastic league last year, one of the challenges was to find officials for the games because we were just slowly getting back to the court after the pandemic suspended majority of our competitions. However, we are able to survive that challenge as our players from the NMI Senior National Team Program stepped up and started officiating our girls middle school league," NMIBF president James Lee.

The national program's pool has players who are both enrolled in high school and college and they go straight to the Marianas High School to officiate matches, while those working also assisted in late afternoon games. On weekends, national pool players are also lending a hand in NMIBF's mini basketball village outreach program called "Bola."

Kyu Aldan is one of the players helping the NMIBF it is programs, as he also officiated in the girls middle school in November last year and the girls high school games early this month, while his own team, Kagman High School, was waiting for its turn at the Marianas High School Gymnasium court.

"It was a very new and fun experience being able to help out NMIBF and PSS during the interscholastic tournament. National players were not only able to ref, table, and maintain the courts, but as well play in the games. A few of the younger national players participated in the tournament, Nyrell, Frankie (Satur), Leo (Naraja), and myself. It was an amazing sight to see not only the men's national helping out but as well as the women's. The women's national had a big role in assisting the tournaments. Without the help of both the men's and the women's, this wouldn't have been made possible," Aldan said.

Destiny Pangelinan is among the women's pool members that consistently helped out run the NMIBF's first three events in the interscholastic league, joining Michelle and Richelle Kautz, Marlene Lumabi, Fiona Bucalig, Madeleine Alegre, Shanesse Aldan, Kaia Travilla, and Sha Aina Mendoza. Other players also took time out to assist the NMIBF in the village program, teaching basic basketball skills to children in the U14 age group.

"I really enjoy helping out with these events because it really allows us to help out our community through basketball. I like that the federation allows us to help out with these events because it benefits the community, the players, and the federation all together," Pangelinan said.

NMIBF vice president David John Apatang is proud that the national program does not only focus on improving the players' basketball skills, but also on developing their leadership abilities.

"They will be the future leaders of NMI basketball and it's a good training for them to see how the programs are being run and how important it is to bring the sport to the community and engage everyone to continue to grow basketball and offer opportunities to our players and officials," Apatang said.

While they are helping the NMIBF run the interscholastic league, players from the national program are also getting ready for the FIBA Micronesian Cup that will be held in Guam from June 8 to 15 this year. The group will also compete in the Northern Mariana Islands Friendship Classic Tournament, which University of Guam will be hosting on March 31, as part of its preparations for the FIBA event. ***(PR)***

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 28

Pyper Liske-Clark made both goals for Paire-1, nailing the first one in the 27th minute off a penalty shot and the second in the 42nd.

In the other game in the division, Moriah Sablan registered the lone goal in the match in the 48th minute to hand MP United the win in its first game of the season.

Matches in the Intermediate Division will resume tonight with Southern United Football Club taking on TanHoldings Football Club in the 7:10pm match and Matansa Football Club battling Paire-2 at 8:25pm. Then this Sunday, Matansa will return to the pitch to challenge Southern United in the 6:15pm tiff, while Shirley's will go for win No. 2 when it faces TanHoldings at 7:30pm.

Meanwhile, the Novice Division also had its season-opening games last Sunday with MP United-2, Kanoa, and Paire making it to the win column.

MP United and Kanoa pulled off similar 1-0 triumphs over Matansa and TanHoldings, respectively, while Paire dominated Shirley's, 5-1.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Shirley's Football Club goalie reaches for the ball during their game against Paire in the Novice Division of the Dove Women's Spring League 2022 last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Saipan Computer Services donates $5K in cash, golf gear to NMC

NMC

Saipan Computer Services recently donated $5,000 in cash and golf gear to the Northern Marianas College, in support of NMC's upcoming golf open on March 19, 2022 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. In photo from left is SCS employee Bryan Fabre, NMC student Vincent Tudela, SCS general manager Jerry Tiu, Lisa Marcelo of Ideal Signs, NMC student Jefferson Cunanan, SCS employee Grace delos Santos, SCS managing director Kazuko Kawabe, NMC student Jermaine Salas, Rowel Mariano of Ideal Signs, and NMC Foundation Program coordinator Carla Sablan.

As part of its commitment to higher education in the CNMI, Saipan Computer Services recently donated $3,000 in cash and $2,000 worth of golf gear to the Northern Marianas College.

Their donation was made in support of the NMC Foundation's upcoming golf open on March 19, 2022.

"The college plays an important role in shaping young men and women to be outstanding contributors to our community and our local workforce," Saipan Computer Services general manager Jerry Tiu said. "We are proud to support NMC and the NMC Foundation once again with its golf tournament."

NMC's Golf Open will be held on the east course of the Saipan LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. Showtime is at 6am, and the shotgun start will be at 7am. The tournament will follow a medal play format.

"Saipan Computer Services has been a longtime supporter of the Northern Marianas College," NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD, said. "We are extremely thankful for the company's unwavering commitment to the college and to elevating higher education opportunities in the CNMI."

First place winners in the men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies Flights (low gross and low net) in the golf tournament will each receive $500, while $300 and $200 will go to the second and third place finishers, respectively. Hole-in-one prizes also include a brand new 2022 Civic Sport Hatchback from Joeten Motors, a brand new 2022 Hyundai Kona N-Line from Triple J Motors, a brand new 2022 Toyota Camry from Atkins Kroll Saipan, $5,000 from McDonald's, and $5,000 from Pacifica Insurance.

The tournament will also feature many other items such as raffle prizes like smartphones, hotel stays, meals, and much more.

Registration for this year's tournament is closed as the maximum number of players has been reached. Those who have not registered to play but would like to be placed on a player wait list can contact 237-6780.

The college is asking companies, organizations, or individuals who are interested in sponsoring holes and/or for any in-kind or cash donation to help support the CNMI's post secondary institution. For more information on how to become a sponsor, please call 237-6780 or email carla.sablan@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

Saipan Marathon registration opens online

MVA

The Saipan Marathon 2022 follows some of Saipan's most scenic roadways, starting and ending at Beach Beach and American Memorial Park and providing stunning views of the azure blue lagoon along the Beach Road.

Registration is open at www.raceroster.com for the Saipan Marathon 2022's half marathon, 10K, and 5K slated for April 9, 2022, in The Marianas.

Registration fees until March 25, 2022, are $45 for all three courses for both international and resident participants. Special rates for CNMI students only with a valid student ID are $30 for the 10K and 5K. Registration will increase $10 after March 25, and registration closes on April 1, 2022.

All participants will receive a finisher's T-shirt, a certificate of completion via email, and entry to the awards banquet at 5pm on race day.

"The Marianas Visitors Authority is pleased to bring back our signature and scenic Saipan Marathon this year with the strong partnership of Northern Marianas Athletics, Athletics," said MVA managing director Priscilla Maratita Iakopo. We are so grateful for all our supporters that, despite the challenges, have stepped up this year to support the Saipan Marathon and all our runners. We couldn't do it with you."

The event is sponsored by the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands. In-kind contributors are Century Hotel, Serenity Hotel, and Aqua Resort Club Saipan. Aid stations will be provided by Saipan World Resort, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Triathlon Association of the CNMI, IT&E, Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Triathlon Association of the CNMI, IT&E, Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Coral Ocean Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan. Supporters are Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Public Works, American Memorial Park, Division of Fire & Emergency Medical Services, Div. of Parks & Recreation, and Marianas Health Services.

The race follows some of Saipan's most scenic roadways, starting and ending at Beach Beach and American Memorial Park and providing stunning views of the azure blue lagoon along the Beach Rd. Race packet pick-up will be available on April 8, 2022, from 5pm to 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park amphitheater. Start time on April 9 is 5:45am for the half-marathon, 6am for the 10K, and 6:10am for the 5K.

Awards will be presented to the Top 3 overall male and female finishers for the Half Marathon, 10K, and 5K. In addition, only the first place male and female finishers in their age division category will receive an award. There will be no age division for the 5K Run.

The race is a World Athletics™-AIMS Certified Course, as World Athletics™ has agreed to extend the measurement certificates for another 12 months for the Saipan Half Marathon and 10K. This extension will also apply if used during the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games in June.

For more information, visit The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or contact MVA Community Projects Community Projects coordinator Ed Diaz at 1.670.664.3210 or ediaz@mymarianas.comediaz@mymarianas.com.

Registration is open at www.raceroster.com for the Saipan Marathon 2022 featuring the Half Marathon, 10K, and 5K on April 9, 2022, in The Marianas. ***(PR)***

Rohringer raises March CWGA trophy

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rose Rohringer, fifth from left, topped the CNMI Women's Golf Association March competition last Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CNMI national golfer Rose Rohringer won the CNMI Women's Golf Association March competition last Saturday at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

The 37-year-old shot a net 78 after firing a gross score of 88. The 10-handicapper registered a 45 in the front nine and a 43 in the back nine.

Asked what was working for her last March 12, the native of Pangasinan in the Philippines said it was most definitely her putting.

"I made some nice putts to save me some pars. Weather was nice until the last few holes when rain started to pour. The greens weren't in good shape either," she said.

Rohringer, who started playing the sport 10 years ago and is self-taught, said she's dedicating her March championship to Scott Dottino's mom who just recently passed away.

Last October, Rohringer was named to the CNMI National Golf Team for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

Yoko Togawa came in second with her net 79 built around a gross of 84. The 5-handicapper had splits of 40-44. Third place went to Kyunga Park on the strength of her 79 (gross 94, 43-51). Togawa edged Park in a scorecard tiebreak.

A total of 11 CWGA members took part in the March tournament and these are the players and net scores in parenthesis: Terry Guerrero (79), Sherlyn Jones (81), Lorrain Babauta (82), Sae Hee Kim (83), Yi Su Jeang (85), Sunny Son Hun (86), Lou Kim (86), and Nirimai Kobel (88).

The club continues to look for new members as the new season continues. For those interested in becoming a member of CWGA or for more information, contact CWGA president Yuko Togawa at 287-9856, vice president Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, or treasurer Lou Kim at 783-7317.

Curry injures left foot, Celtics rout Warriors 110-88

PAGE 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Saipan Computer Services donates $5K in cash, golf gear to NMC

PAGE 27

Cruz, Ramsey named to tennis team

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association formally named four men's players to the CNMI National Tennis Team for this year's Pacific Mini Games.

NMITA president Jeff Race earlier gave 2017 Samoa Mini Games gold medalists Colin Sinclair and Robbie Schorr automatic slots to the men's national team. Last Friday, the CNMI Sports Hall of Famer added Bobby Cruz and Colin Ramsey to the lineup.

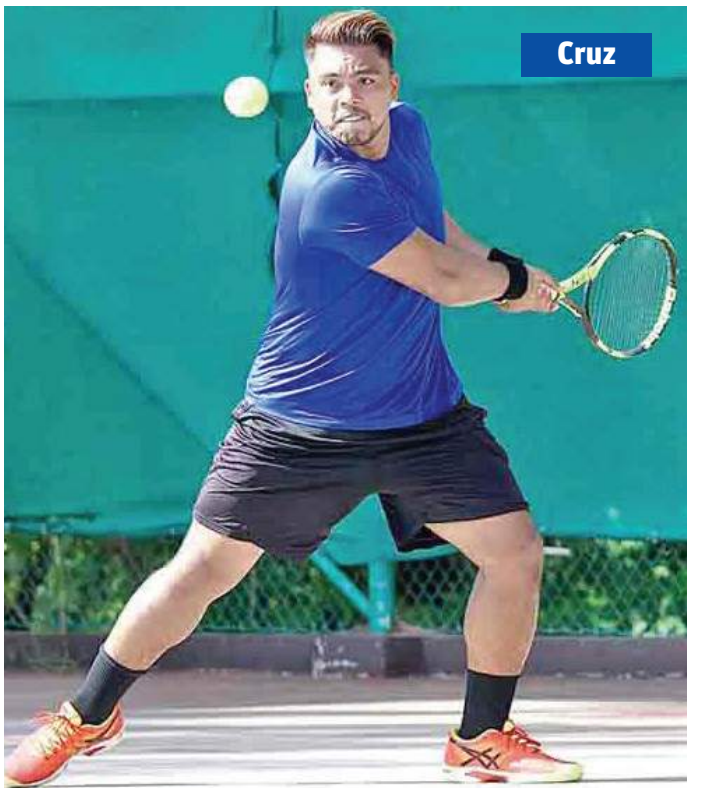
» Join Sinclair, Schorr in Mini Games

Race said he ended up picking Cruz and Ramsey after the other candidates—Morris Villanueva, 2017 Mini Games veteran Ken Song, and Tony Atalig—couldn't take part in a tryout for various reasons.

"For the men, we didn't need to have a selection competition. Morris chose not to try out. Ken is doing an internship this summer and I have not received any confirmation from Tony."

It can also be recalled that Cruz was also part of the Mini Games team five years ago but missed going to Apia after losing his passport a few days

See CRUZ on Page 26



Shirley's, MP United win opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Shirley's Football Club and MP United Football Club had winning debuts in the season-opening games in the Dove Women's Spring League 2022 Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Shirley's outclassed Paire Football Club-1 in the Intermediate Division, 5-2, while MP United nipped Kanoa Football Club, 1-0.

Jhaza Mirano led Shirley's victory in the season kick-off after firing a pair of goals. She found her target right in the opening minute of the match and got her second goal in the 30th. Three other players scored for Shirley's with Kathryn Sablan giving the team's its second goal in the seventh minute and Mikky Vargas and Angelica Carreon delivering the last two after hitting the board in the 40th and 55th minute, respectively.

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 26

Nat'l basketball program players go extra mile

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation has so far completed three of the five division competitions in the 2021-2022 season of the IT&E Interscholastic Basketball League despite the delays and other challenges brought about by the pandemic.

Thanks to the league's major sponsor IT&E, coaches of the participating schools, the leadership of the CNMI Public School System and PSS Athletic Programs director Nick Gross, and members of the NMI Senior National Team Program. The latter are helping the NMIBF run the games in the league as they serve as referees during the matches

See NAT'L on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Destiny Pangelinan, center, does the jump ball in the game between Dandan Middle School and Tanapag Middle School in the IT&E Interscholastic Girls Middle School Basketball League late last year at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.